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Sustainable Communities Tax Credit Announcement

January 8th, 2010

Baltimore, Maryland

(As Prepared)

Thank you Lt. Governor Brown for your continued leadership, partnership and commitment,... and thanks to all of you for joining us,...

We're finding more and more in our public policy that as just as many of the challenges we're facing are connected, in big ways and in small ways, so too are many of our opportunities. Particularly when it comes to our urgent priority of jobs, jobs, jobs – creating, saving, and placing our fellow citizens in quality jobs.

The announcements we're here to make today are about, first and foremost jobs, jobs, jobs – and they are also about the connected priorities of growing the emerging green sector of our economy, strengthening our local communities and neighborhoods, and protecting the character, heritage, and above all the people who make our State the greatest state in the union.

It all comes back to the big goals we share for strengthening and growing the ranks of an increasingly diverse, upwardly mobile middle class – including our family owned businesses and farms. And we do that by improving our quality of life – by improving public safety and public education in every part of our state and expanding opportunity to more people rather than fewer; the opportunity to learn, to earn, and to enjoy the health of the people we love and our environment, the land, the water, and the air that future generations will need to sustain life itself.

Announcing the Sustainable Communities Tax Credit

The first thing we're here to announce is legislation we're proposing this session to create what we call the Sustainable Communities Tax Credit. This new initiative will expand and approve upon the Heritage Structure Rehabilitation Tax Credit Program, which otherwise will expire in June.

Why is this a priority we care about? In a word: "jobs." Rehabilitating historic sites is a proven job engine, creating by some estimates 20% more jobs than construction of new sites. And as an illustration, in its 12 years of existence, the Heritage Tax

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Credit has fueled upwards of 15,000 Maryland jobs, while pumping an estimated \$1.74 billion into our economy. All in all, it's been estimated that for every dollar of tax credit that is used, \$8.53 in economic output is generated.

Our proposal calls for building upon this progress, by expanding eligibility for the credit to properties in areas which participate in our Main Street, Maple Street and Transit Oriented Development initiatives. And in a further expansion, we're proposing to offer an extra 5% for LEED Gold projects which meet national standards for green building.

Our President has showed great leadership on this, and we hope that by making these improvements to the law, we'll further our partnership with his Administration toward our goals for creating jobs and promoting sustainability.

Announcing Four Sites

The second announcement we're here to make today illustrates the potential we see in this Credit. I'm please to announce four new projects which will be receiving awards:

The first is our gracious hosts for this afternoon at Union Mill, where we're awarding \$2.9 million in tax credits to restore this former manufacturing facility into a mixed-use residential and commercial center that will provide dozens of affordable apartments for new teachers in the Baltimore public school system – an example of how our priorities are all connected.

The second is a the rehabilitation of the Proctor House in Bel Air, saving an historic Gothic Revival style building at the heart of historic Bel Air from what otherwise would have been almost certain demolition.

The third and fourth are two promising projects at the National Park Seminary at Forest Glen in Silver Spring, where once grand buildings are being restored to their historic appearance and converted into mixed-use condominiums, rental apartments, and single-family homes.

Conclusion

Our potential, our return to prosperity, our capacity for progress – they're all connected, they all come back to jobs, and they matter to that big overarching goal of strengthening and growing the ranks of an increasingly diverse, upwardly mobile middle class.

Thank you all for joining us,... Up next we have Rodney Little from the Maryland Historical Trust.



Tags: [development](#), [jobs](#), [sustainability](#), [Sustainable Communities Tax Credit](#)

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Cyber Maryland Summit

January 11th, 2010

National Institute of Standards and Technology, Maryland

(As Prepared)

It's an honor to have the opportunity to join you here today. To Dr. Gallagher and all our hosts at the National Institutes for Standards and Technology thank you for hosting us today – it's a great source of pride for our State that we are home to federal facilities like NIST, the NSA and the Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Activity.

Our federal assets are a big part of the reason that we're in a better position than other states to return to prosperity, and later today I'll be meeting with our Federal Facilities Task Force to talk about new ways to leverage these opportunities to create jobs and support our small and family owned businesses.

Our federal facilities are also a big part of the reason that we not only think that Maryland can be the national epicenter for cyber security – in many ways, as all of you know, our State already is.

Let give me you three reasons right up front why today's summit is so important. 1. Jobs. 2. Jobs. 3. Jobs.

There are more than a quarter of a million Marylanders working in our technology sector, and more than 60,000 who work in computer systems design and related services. And the subsector of Computer Systems Design is an area where we actually gained jobs this year – growing by 6.6%. If you're keeping score at home that's the best growth in this sector of any State in America and it's happening right here in Maryland.

Back in November I had the opportunity to join the good people at Lockheed-Martin, which employs 8,700 people in our State as they opened their cutting edge NexGen Cyber Innovation and Technology Center. It's a tremendous advantage for us that we have companies like Lockheed-Martin in our State, and it's also an incredible advantage to have more than 5,500 small businesses working on computer systems design in our State. Businesses like Oculis who employ dozens of Marylanders – CEO Bill Anderson is here. Bill can you stand up?

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Cyber security, computer systems design, and all the high tech, high potential sectors of our economy are all connected to our goals for creating, saving, and placing our fellow citizens in quality jobs and that big, overarching goal we share of strengthening and growing the ranks of an increasingly diverse, upwardly mobile middle class, including our family owned businesses and farms. It's connected to our ability to strengthen our workforce by improving education in every part of our State. It's connected to our ability as a free people to expand opportunity to more of our fellow citizens rather than fewer...

... And given the unique security challenges we are facing as a nation and as a State, it's also connected to our goals for improving the public's safety and security. I had the opportunity to join President Obama last year when he pledged to make securing our nation's information networks a top priority, and it's our priority here in Maryland too.

In this 21st century world – a world in which we face the connected challenges of leading in science, leading in security, and leading in skills and education — we're connected as never before to things like the global economy, global pandemics, and the global climate change – and these connections are creating both new challenges and new opportunities. Perhaps there is no better example than in the cyber world. On the one hand, there are threats never before realized or imagined. Hackers on one end of our shrinking globe might literally have the ability to shut down a city's power grid half a world away.

Yet the connections that we choose to forge – especially in these challenging times, are actually the things that can and will move us forward; forward not only to better economic times, but quite possibly to a better world. And so our big task is to make the connections that create progress; to find new ways to transform our economy and advance innovation so that we can create new jobs and expand opportunity to more people rather than fewer.

Announcing our Cyber Security Strategy

That brings us to our announcement. Today we're launching a multipronged strategy for cyber security, which we detail in a new report titled Cyber Maryland. Its goal is to create and protect Maryland jobs, and to advance the cause of security not just in our State but for our country and allies across the globe.

Our strategy focuses on four major areas:

1. Advancing cyber innovation through such strategies as creating a National Center of Excellence for Cyber Security.
2. Strengthening our workforce by getting our citizens the skills they need to succeed in the emerging cyber economy.
3. Advancing policies that will position Maryland in national leadership on cyber security issues.
4. Establishing Maryland as the recognized national epicenter for cyber security and leveraging our assets for economic growth.

Conclusion: Maryland's Assets

Taken together we believe these strategies add up to more and better jobs,... to improvements in national security and the safety of our communities and families. They are therefore connected to our larger goals for improving our quality of life,... to strengthening and growing the ranks of an increasingly diverse, upwardly mobile middle class.

The strengths, the potential, and the assets of innovation are right here in Maryland. And one of the people who can attest to this is George Heron who is with us from the company “Vir2us,” which last month announced they are moving from California here to Maryland.

And why is Maryland such a great place to move? We have the best public schools in America so says Education Week magazine and therefore one of America’s most highly skilled workforces. We have some of the most important federal facilities and some of the leading institutions of science, discovery, and higher learning anywhere in the world.

We have unique challenges and unique opportunities in these unique times, and often they are one and the same. Our task therefore continues – to create the connections which create jobs, advance innovation and drive progress.



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Tags: [Cyber Maryland Summit](#), [cyber security](#), [innovation](#), [jobs](#), [NIST](#)

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Opening Day of Session, Maryland Senate

January 13th, 2010

Annapolis, Maryland

(As Prepared)

Mr. President, thank you for your leadership and for your tremendous dedication to the hardworking people of our State. And thanks to all the senators serving in this Chamber.

It is an honor to be able to welcome you to Annapolis for the start of the first session of this new decade. Speaking personally, I've greatly appreciated and been humbled by the blessing of serving with so many good people these past three years, who care about our State and our future, and believe in the responsibility we all share to advance the common good.

It was just three years ago, when we inherited a \$1.7 billion structural deficit in easier economic times, when state spending had increased by upwards of 30% with the tab being put on our children's credit card,.... when our citizens were asked to pay \$3 billion in hidden taxes and fees and things like the Transportation Trust Fund and Program Open Space were regularly robbed to fill budget holes.

But in the past three years we have come together, not as Democrats and Republicans but as Marylanders, squared our shoulders, and made the tough decisions which have allowed us to make progress for our hard working families in difficult times – progress that was only possible because of those two all important words: “fiscal responsibility.”

Every year for the past three years, we've submitted and you have passed a budget that is not only balanced, but that comes in within the spending affordability guidelines. Rather than increasing spending, for the first time this side of the Great Depression our spending levels are less today than they were four years ago – and together we have reduced state spending \$4.6 billion. We are one of only 7 states which continues to defend a Triple A Bond rating – a measure of fiscal responsibility certified by all three major agencies. We've eliminated 3,300 positions from our state government and made it smaller.

It was all with the goal and the motive and purpose of maintaining fiscal

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responsibility so we can make progress on schools, progress on public safety, progress that strengthens and grows our middle class and creates more opportunity for hardworking people in our State.

Jobs and Opportunity

Our big goal for this session with a government that works can be summarized in a word: jobs. As you'd all agree, there is no government program that is as important and empowering as a job which allows a family to raise their kids with dignity and respect and a roof over their heads.

In these tough times, everything we accomplish together this session must be seen through the lens of whether or not it creates jobs, protects jobs, or improves the environment for creating and protecting jobs.

It's all connected. It all comes back to jobs and that big overarching goal we share of strengthening and growing the ranks of an increasingly diverse, upwardly mobile middle class – including our family owned businesses and farms.

Our Administration will be asking for your help in passing a number of important pieces of legislation this session which are connected to jobs and two of them we'll be filing today.

The first is our Job Creation Tax Credit, which will give Maryland businesses a \$3,000 credit for every unemployed Marylander it puts back to work – thus serving the dual purpose of creating jobs and protecting the small and family owned businesses that are the backbone of our economy and the driving force for job creation in our State.

The second, is emergency legislation to shore up our UI system to provide immediate relief to our small businesses – helping them keep the doors open so they can continue to create jobs for our fellow citizens and help turn around our economy.

Conclusion

The times we live in call out for less partisanship and more citizenship,... as Marylanders we have a history of coming together in times of great adversity. Instead of making excuses, we make progress – progress which comes not as a result of chance, but of choice – the tough choices we continue to make together as One Maryland. I look forward to working with you in this session.



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Tags: [2010 session](#), [annapolis](#), [fiscal responsibility](#), [jobs](#), [Maryland Senate](#)

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Opening Day of Session, Maryland House of Delegates

January 13th, 2010

Annapolis, Maryland

(As Prepared)

Mr. Speaker, thank you for your leadership and for your tremendous dedication to the hardworking people of our State. And thanks to all the Delegates serving in this Chamber.

It is an honor to be able to welcome you to Annapolis for the start of the first session of this new decade. Speaking personally, I've greatly appreciated and been humbled by the blessing of serving with so many good people these past three years, who care about our State and our future, and believe in the responsibility we all share to advance the common good.

It was just three years ago, when we inherited a \$1.7 billion structural deficit in easier economic times, when state spending had increased by upwards of 30% with the tab being put on our children's credit card,.... when our citizens were asked to pay \$3 billion in hidden taxes and fees and things like the Transportation Trust Fund and Program Open Space were regularly robbed to fill budget holes.

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Maryland Economic Development Association Annual Legislative Conference Keynote Speech

January 14th, 2010

Annapolis, Maryland

(As Prepared)

It's an honor to join you here today. To everyone with the Maryland Economic Development Association, let me just say that Anthony Brown and myself greatly appreciate the things that you are doing, day in and day out, to put our fellow citizens to work, and strengthen our economy.

I'm sure that no one needs to be reminded of the painful truth that despite signs our national economy is starting a slow turnaround, things are still very, very tough. There is not a day which goes by when I don't speak to a businesses owner who is struggling to make payroll or keep the doors open, or a fellow citizen who's been out of work for months and is now using credit cards to pay for simple auto repairs or rising health care expenses.

That's why our urgent focus in this session and beyond has to be on creating jobs, protecting jobs, strengthening our small businesses, and creating the conditions which allow us to create and save jobs.

While none of us would say we are out of the woods yet, I'm able to report to you today that there is some encouraging economic news on the horizon. Our latest Board of Revenue Estimates show that things are starting to stabilize. Our rate of unemployment continues to be 26% lower than the national average. We're able to face down this recession as one of only 7 states in America which continues to defend a Triple A Bond Rating – a seal of fiscal responsibility certified by all three major rating agencies.

And although we've lost jobs in the past year, only two other states have held onto their jobs as well as Maryland has in this recession, and we're actually gaining jobs in some key sectors – sectors like Computer Systems Design where we've had the best growth in the United States of America.

When you consider all of this, and you consider that Education Week magazine

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says we have the #1 best public schools in America – and therefore we have one of America's most highly skilled workforces – it's clear that there isn't a stronger ship in America's fleet than the good ship Maryland.

None of this is a result of chance, it's a result of choice – the tough choices we continue to make together in tough times. And if we're going to power through this recession more quickly than other States, it's going to be because we choose to focus on three big priorities. And what are they?

Jobs, Jobs, Jobs.

For everything that we're trying to accomplish in this session and beyond, we're asking the fundamental question: how does this help us create the conditions which create and protect jobs – and how does this connect to that big, overarching goal we continue to share of strengthening and growing the ranks of an increasingly diverse, upwardly mobile middle class – including our family businesses and farms.

We'd likely all agree that there is no government program that can be as effective as a job in helping a family put a roof over their head or send their kids to college.

Therefore we need all of you. Lt. Governor Brown and I can't do this alone. We're all in this together, and we continue to need your help in putting our citizens back to work, protecting the jobs we have, and creating the conditions that create jobs – things like advancing innovation and strengthening the skills of our workforce.

I want to talk to you today about some of the things we're doing to support your efforts to create and save Maryland jobs – and some of the things we hope to have your help and support on in this upcoming session

Fiscal Responsibility

Let me start with those two all important words which are fundamental to everything we are doing to create the conditions which allow us to create and protect jobs: fiscal responsibility.

Just three years ago, we were coming off a period in which state spending had climbed by more than 30%, our citizens were being asked to shell out for more than \$3 billion in hidden taxes and fees, the Transportation Trust Fund and Program Open space were regularly raided to fill budget holes, and as a State, we had run up a structural deficit of \$1.7 billion – even in easier economic times.

But we came together as One Maryland and put partisanship aside for citizenship. And by making a lot of tough decisions we've cut state spending by some \$4.6 billion these past three years. In fact today, for the first time this side of the Great Depression, state spending is lower than it was four years ago. And at the same time, we've been able to strategically reform our state government, shrinking it by more than 3,300 positions and making it more accountable to the people it works for.

Because of these tough choices, we've been able to make progress toward the things that support jobs and opportunity – things like K-12 Education, college affordability, safer streets, and the advancement of innovation in areas like bioscience and green energy.

Creating the Conditions Which Create Jobs

Let me share with you a few details about three of the strategies we're implementing – with your help – to create the conditions that are conducive to creating and protecting jobs.

First and foremost, we are working to strengthen the skills of our workforce and prepare our people for the challenges of the 21st century global economy. It's not by chance, but by choice that we have the nation's best public schools – the choices we've made together as One Maryland to make record investments in K-12 education – even in tough times.

What's more, it's not by chance but by choice that the University of Maryland is now ranked as the 8th best value in public education, when just four years ago it was ranked 18th. It's because we've chosen together to be the only State in America to go not one, not two, not three, but four years in a row with no increase in in-state college tuition.

The Milken Institute ranks us #1 in America in the investments we make in the talents and skills of our people – and we're working through things like our P-20 counsel to make sure we're investing these resources in the right way – bringing stakeholders from businesses, education, and government out of their silos – making the connections which allow us to make progress.

We're also putting a renewed priority on things like Career and Technology Education and STEM, Science Technology Engineering and Math – these areas where American students are falling behind other countries, but which we need our people to have so that we can compete in the new, increasingly information-based global economy.

Second, we're working to support and grow the high-tech, high potential sectors of Maryland's Innovation Economy – these areas which hold such create potential both for creating jobs and for revolutionizing the way we feed, fuel, and heal our fellow citizens across our planet – and our planet itself.

Earlier this week we announced a new strategy for supporting our emerging Cyber Security Sector. We believe that Maryland can be the Silicon Valley of this emerging field and in many ways we already are the national epicenter. This is a sector which has the potential to create tens of thousands of new Maryland jobs.

Through our Bio2020 initiative, we're working to continue to grow our bioscience sector – with its vast job-creating potential and it's potential for allowing us to proliferate what Dr. Jeffrey Sachs calls "weapons of mass salvation" – those new cures, treatments, and technologies which can save lives of our neighbors here in Maryland and our global neighbors in far off places halfway around the world.

Another area of Maryland's innovation economy is our emerging green sector, where we've set the big goal of creating and protecting 100,000 green jobs by 2015. Whether it's through our nation-leading climate change legislation or our push for the nation's first cap-and-trade auction of greenhouse emissions credits, we're leading the way in green here in Maryland, and it has a great potential not only to heal our planet but to help us reach our goals for creating and sustaining quality jobs.

Third, we're working to strengthen the small and family-owned businesses which are the backbone of Maryland's economy. In November, we rolled out our Ten Point Strategy for Strengthening Small Business, which is helping us better support our vital small businesses – where more than 60% of Marylanders go to work each day.

Jobs and the 2010 Session

That brings me to a few of the things we hope to have your help and support with this session.

To help strengthen our small businesses, we're proposing immediate relief by shoring up our UI system, and concurrently, we are proposing the creation of a Maryland Small Business Credit Recovery Program, which will get businesses the credit they need to create and sustain jobs. No one here needs to be reminded that credit is the lifeblood of any business and when credit markets dry up, small businesses are often the first to be affected.

As a concurrent part of this strategy, we're proposing a Job Creation Tax Credit to help more Marylanders get back to work, and off the unemployment rolls. It's a \$3,000 tax credit for each unemployed Marylander that a business hires. We believe this one-year initiative can put thousands of people in our state back to work.

And to drive progress toward the connected goals of supporting our construction industry, which had a very tough year, and strengthening our communities, we're proposing a Sustainable Communities Tax Credit, which we believe will put Marylanders back to work rehabilitating sites in historic areas and main streets.

Conclusion

Throughout our great Revolutionary history, as Marylanders, we have always led the way in times of great adversity, setting an example for other states to rally round. We don't make excuses, we make progress, progress that is the product not of chance, but of choice – oftentimes tough choices.

Our economic downturn is unlike anything we have faced in generations. But the challenges we are facing are also opening up our minds to the connections that are all around us – like the connections between difficult challenges and new, innovative solutions, and the connections between our individual efforts and the lives of our families and communities.

And our task is to strengthen those connections that drive progress in our state:

Connections which advance progress in science – that is, how do we figure out new ways to heal, to feed and to fuel this increasingly hot, crowded and flat world of ours?

Connections which advance progress in security, protecting our streets, our neighborhoods, protecting our people from pandemic challenges, protecting our homeland from threats old and new.

Connections which advance progress in the skills and education of our people. This is surely the foundation of primary ingredients of why we are in a better competitive

position that other states in the Union.

Science, security, skills, new ideas for new jobs in Maryland. They're all connected. And they're connected to our need to invest in one another, and work together toward the stronger future we all prefer.

Thank you.



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FY2011 Budget Announcement

January 18th, 2010

Annapolis, Maryland

As Prepared For Delivery

Thank you all for you joining us today,...

In a couple moments we're going to begin a powerpoint presentation on our Administration's FY2011 budget proposal, but first I want to give you a brief overview.

As you know, three years ago we inherited a \$1.7 billion structural deficit.

We came together not as Democrats and Republicans but as One Maryland, and instead of making excuses, we insisted on making progress. How? By making tough decisions. By choosing fiscal responsibility and cutting \$4.6 billion in state spending, while reforming, revitalizing, and strategically reducing the size of our State government by 3,300 positions.

None of these choices have been easy choices, but they have been the right choices for families, for our future, and for our shared effort to create the conditions conducive to creating and preserving jobs, expanding opportunity, and protecting our hardworking families.

Every year for the past three years, we have submitted – and the General Assembly has passed – a budget which comes in under spending affordability guidelines. The budget we are proposing this year does as well.

It will bring our four year totals to \$5.6 billion in spending and 3,500 position reductions.

For the first time in at least 40 years, general fund spending today is less than it was four years ago, and this year's budget proposal would bring general fund spending for FY2011 down lower than FY2010. And at -2.9%, spending as measured by Spending Affordability standards, would be the lowest in Maryland's history.

During the past three years, restoring fiscal responsibility has been what's allowed us to make progress for job creation, progress for education, progress for college affordability, progress for renewable energy, progress for our environment, progress

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for public safety.

With this budget, we seek the same sort of progress toward the priorities we share: strengthening and growing the ranks of our increasingly diverse, upwardly mobile middle class; improving public safety and public education in every part of our state; expanding opportunity – the opportunity to learn, to earn, and to enjoy the health of the people we love and the environment which sustains life itself.

The budget proposal seeks to allow us to create the conditions conducive to creating jobs, saving jobs, expanding economic opportunity, and protecting homeownership, hardworking families, and small and family owned businesses.

It includes, for example, a proposed \$5.7 billion investment in our #1 ranked public schools that will amount to an increase in \$1.2 billion over four years, and \$250 million for school construction that will both support construction jobs today and prepare our children to compete for the jobs of tomorrow.

Let's begin our powerpoint and go into some further detail...



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Tech Council of Maryland

January 20th, 2010

Annapolis, Maryland

(As Prepared)

Thank you Robert Scheer, and thanks to Renee Winsky, Ed Rudnic, and to everyone with the Tech Council.

It's an honor to join you here tonight. On behalf of our entire Administration, thank you for the work that you are doing to bring jobs and economic opportunity to our State, especially in these tough times, when we face this imperative of putting our country back to work, revitalizing our economy and restoring the prosperity we know is in reach for our State if we're willing to choose in our own here and now to invest in these high tech, high-potential sectors of our economy.

Our urgent focus for this session is, and has to be, on three things: jobs, jobs, and jobs. Creating jobs, protecting jobs, and expanding opportunity. Jobs from innovation in science, security, and discovery. Jobs of noble and valuable service. Jobs that create and rebuild our vital connections of travel, trade, and business. Jobs that revitalize and restore our environment. Jobs in teaching and healing.

The benefit of the type of jobs that you create in the high-tech, high potential sectors of our economy is that they not only have the potential to help us reinvigorate our economy, but in a sense to remake our world.

In big ways and in small ways, the immensity of the problems we face with respect to job creation, climate change, poverty, terror, resource security, energy security, and health is driving the innovation in every sphere of education, research, technology and life-sciences that we count among Maryland's greatest competitive strengths. From our colleges, universities, laboratories, and companies of Maryland spring forth the discoveries and technologies that will transform, for the better, the way we feed, fuel, and heal this world of ours.

The work you do matters, and our job in your state government is to create the conditions that will allow you to create and protect these new high-tech, high-potential jobs in our State. That's why our mission remains the same, and it is this: to strengthen and grow the ranks of an increasingly diverse, upwardly mobile middle class – including our family owned businesses and farms; to improve public

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safety and public education in every part of our State; and to expand opportunity, the opportunity to learn, to earn, and to enjoy the health of the people we love and the environment we love.

Maryland's Economy

In terms of our economy, nobody would argue that as a State, as a country, as a planet, we are out of the woods yet. Those of you in business feel it in your balance sheets, and families in every part of our State are feeling it in their own budgets. Too many of the small businesses in our State – the backbone of our economy – are shutting their doors. I talk with businesses owners every day who are struggling just to make payroll. And families struggle every day just to keep the lights on. Just to make that monthly mortgage payment or the minimum payment on their Visa card.

But this is not going to be the first recession in American history that lasts forever – things are going to get better. .

The recession isn't going to last forever, and we here in Maryland are not only weathering it better than most of the other 50 states – we're in position to come out stronger. Why do I say that?

Is it because unemployment in Maryland is 26% below the national average? Partially.

Is it because we're one of only seven states which continues to defend a Triple A bond rating, certified by all three major bond rating agencies? Partially.

Is it because only two other states have held on to their jobs better than Maryland in the past year, if you look at the numbers? Another big part of it.

Is it because we're actually growing in high tech sectors like Computer Systems Design where we had the best growth in America last year thanks to 6,000 small businesses working in this sector in our State? That's a very big part of it.

I would argue the biggest reason that we're in a better position than other States is because of the talents, skills, creativity, and ingenuity of our people, our greatest asset. Because we've chosen together to make record investments in K-12 education, we have the #1 best schools in America – and don't just take the word of our State's braggadocios governor – you can take the word of Education Week magazine which just ranked our schools #1 for the second year in a row.

When you have the nation's best public schools – and when together you choose to be the only state in America to go not one, not two, not three but four years in a row with no increase in in-state tuition at our four year colleges and universities – you end up with one of America's most highly skilled workforces.

A Fiscally Responsible Budget which Advances Innovation

Let me say a quick word about the reason that we've been able to make progress in things like public education and college affordability. You know in business that a company can only survive – especially in tough times – if your books are in order. Well what happens when a state government doesn't keep it's books in order? You end up with things like the \$1.7 billion structural deficit we inherited three years ago.

As Marylanders, when faced with adversity we don't make excuses, we make progress – and in these last three years, together we've been able to bring fiscal responsibility back to state government. Each year, we've been able to pass a budget which is not only balanced, but comes in under spending affordability guidelines. For the first time since the Great Depression general fund spending today is less than it was just three years ago. All told, together we've cut \$4.6 billion in spending in just three years, while strategically reducing the size of our government by 3,300 positions and reforming it to make it more accountable to our shareholders: the people of Maryland.

In this year's budget, we're proposing to bring our total four year spending reduction to \$5.6 billion. But because we've chosen together – as One Maryland – to restore fiscal responsibility, we continue to have the opportunity to make the sorts of investments in innovation that will create the conditions to support all of you in creating high tech, high potential jobs.

We'd likely all agree that the number one, most important ingredient in innovation is education. In this budget, we are proposing to make the single largest investment ever in our history in our public schools. With this investment, education funding in our State will have increased by \$1.2 billion in four years.

For higher education, in this budget we've been able to hold tuition increases in our state university system to a modest 3% – after we were the only state in America to freeze it for four years, which allowed us to go from being 6th most expensive in America down to 21st where we're projected to be in FY11.

To advance technology and innovation in our State, this year's budget proposal includes \$3.4 million for TEDCO, including a quarter million for the incubator initiative, and that's on top of the \$12.4 million investment we're asking the General Assembly for in Stem Cell Research – building on the more than \$53 million we've invested together these past three years.

And to further the progress we're making in the biosciences, our budget also includes \$6 million for the Biotech Tax Credit, \$4 million for the Maryland Biotech Center, \$16 million for the Germantown Biosciences Center, and \$5 million for the East Baltimore Biotechnology Park – all part of our Bio 2020 initiative, the biggest investment any State has ever made in the life sciences.

Maryland's Innovation Economy

When you consider our world class workforce, and you think about the federal facilities which call our state home – not to mention our small businesses, industry leading companies, universities and colleges – it's fair to say that innovation is something we do well here in Maryland. That's thanks to all of you.

How do we “do” innovation even better? How do we create the conditions which allow you to reignite the limitless potential of Maryland's Innovation Economy? It's partially about the aforementioned investments we are making – the inputs, if you will – and it's also about making the connections which allow us to produce even stronger outputs and outcomes:

To make the connections which advance innovation, in September, we entered a strategic alliance with the State of California to advance stem cell research –

because we are stronger when we work together;

To make the connections which advance innovation, this year we opened the Maryland Biotechnology Center in Montgomery County and in Baltimore to promote innovation and entrepreneurship – and further our efforts to bring new jobs and opportunity to Maryland;

To make the connections which advance innovation, in March we opened the Maryland Clean Energy Center in Montgomery County to promote green innovation and entrepreneurship and bring green collar jobs to Maryland.

To make the connections which advance innovation, we're working together to reinvigorate Career and Technology Education and Science, Technology, Engineer, and Math education in our State, and retool our curricula with environmental and financial literacy;

To make the connections which advance innovation, we continue to work together toward the big goal we've set of creating or saving 100,000 green collar jobs in our state by 2015;

To make the connections which advance innovation, we've started a Facilities Task Force designed to leverage the untapped potential of the more than 50 federal agencies and facilities in our State which are actually growing and creating jobs, and have a choice in which state they spend dollars;

And to make the connections which advance innovation, we continue to work together to support IT sector, including cyber security, We are emerging as the national epicenter for cyber security thanks to the 6,000 small businesses which work on computer systems design in Maryland, thanks to companies like Lockheed-Martin which recently opened its NexGen center in Maryland, and thanks to all the federal facilities we have in our State – like the NSA, the NIST, and, we hope, the future Joint Cyber Command.

Those interested in reading about the Cyber Security strategy we launched last week can click on www.choosemaryland.org, DBED's website where we've made it available for download.

Conclusion

We have found these past three years, that we're at our strongest as a State when we're willing to set aside partisanship and embrace the higher callings of partnership and citizenship. As Marylanders, we don't make excuses in times of great adversity, we make progress – progress that comes from tough decisions. Progress that's a result not of chance, but of choice.

I hope to have your help and support in choosing further progress this legislative session on things like a \$3,000 tax credit for every unemployed Marylander hired by a Maryland business, a new small business credit recovery program, and immediate UI relief for small businesses.

As Marylanders, in times of great adversity we lead – that's who we are and what we do, and we understand that our greatness isn't about how many smart bombs we can drop on our enemies half a world away, it's about the smart, compassionate, helping hands we're able to offer to the victims of the tragedy in Haiti or our fellow human beings who are hungry or afflicted with diseases like Malaria and AIDS. It's about the ways we're able to proliferate what Dr. Jeffrey Sachs calls "weapons of mass salvation" and about the ways we're working to reverse global climate change.

Thank you for everything you are doing to help move our State forward.



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ULI Board Meeting

January 25th, 2010

Mayor, thank you very, very much. It's great to be with all of you. I want to thank Maureen McAvey for having me here. And I also want to thank her for making the choice to be a Maryland resident and for exercising the judgment that comes with that august title by voting for me in the last election. And I hope we do it again in the next one, Maureen.

So it is great to be with all of you. I was Mayor of Baltimore for seven years. And the head of my Economic Development Agency was a man named Jay Goodwin, who is very much a ULI person and understood that our cities can be brought back to life, and if we would only think differently, we can re-imagine that future, if we can see it and put one foot in front of the other towards building that future and rebuilding that future.

I also want to thank my dear friend Tom Murphy, who showed me as Mayor that one person can make a difference that each of us must try. And Tom knows that we must make the tough decisions, but the right decisions, so that the people of this earth can imagine that better future, open up their waterways, the magic that is the connection between the city and its waterways and its future.

So, Tom, thank you for everything you taught me and thanks for your leadership in this organization. (Applause.)

Maureen, Tom and I were talking about a year ago and I said to him, you know, one of my challenges is that I feel like I know what needs to be done and I feel like I'm talking about what needs to be done. But I feel like when I'm speaking – although it sounds like English to me – it sounds like Chinese to the people that I serve.

And he said, there's a reason for that and it is this. That we do not yet have a common vocabulary within the general public for talking about, understanding, getting our heads around notions like sustainability.

Each of us can probably give a different paragraph to define sustainability. Which is great. If you go out on the street, you'll get a different paragraph for every person that walks down the street. If you don't get from most of them a sort of confounded look, as if, you know, what the heck are you talking about?

So, that's why these are such exciting times, though, aren't they? You all do this work every day in every way and many of you have done it in important places like

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our center cities, which are the future of our country. If we are going to be a moral leader in this world, it will be designed and determined very much in terms of the landscape of our center cities and what we do in those places where human beings gather and meet and create. And create synergy, create art, and do all the other things that make cities places of destination.

Let me share this with you. I was taught by a man who did some revolutionary work in organizing and managing people and his name was Jack Maple. He was Deputy Commissioner of Police in New York City under Bill Bratton.

And he taught me something about managing big organizations, which can be summed up in kind of two actions, two rules; one is set goals, the other is measure performance. Set goals, measure performance.

That's what we strive to do in the City of Baltimore and people work against deadlines, people work towards goals. People find ways to advance towards those goals if they know what they are, if they can see them and if somebody's keeping score and measuring performance.

And we've applied that same style of management, if you will, to what we do in the State Government. I want to applaud Mr. Guzy for all the great work that he and the Obama administration are doing to make our Federal Government performance measured, to set goals and to have the willingness to believe that we actually serve the generous, compassionate, and intelligent people who want to do the right thing and make progress.

That's the sort of people that I'm able to serve in the State of Maryland. And we have set about 15 big goals across three areas. One of them is security, another one is the skills of our people, and the third one is sustainability.

So on the sustainability, yes, we set goals. We measured them publicly and we proclaimed them and we know that we'll be measured by them come election or re-election time. Of reducing energy consumption by 15 percent by 2015. By reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 25 percent by the end of 2020. Increasing our renewable portfolio 20 percent by 2022. Doubling transit ridership by 2020.

These, and also reducing sprawl, poorly planned growth, by 30 percent. These are all goals that we strive towards, that we measure our effectiveness by. And we are making progress on all of those scores.

Some may say that some of the progress is fueled by this downturn in the economy, the inability to borrow dollars to do some of the stalled development that characterizes much of the land consumption in our State.

But other things are absolutely the product of choice. Not of chance, not of the economy, not of the ups and downs of the weather or the wind. We preserved five times as much open space in the State of Maryland these last three difficult years, than we did in four earlier years.

Why is that? Not by chance. It's because we chose to use those open space dollars to buy open space and when we do that, in the economy that we have had, you get more acreage for it. And we are winning the battle in that race to make sure that we preserve the essence of that ecological body that our State needs in order to be

able to function properly. It was not by chance, but by choice that we became the first State to successfully participate in the RGGI auctions. It's not by chance, but by choice that we've been more successful than any state in the PJM grid, in terms of demand reduction and some of those sorts of things. So that's on goals.

Let me talk to you a little bit about the big goal of reducing that sprawl and some of the individual actions that we've taken with regard to those bad uses.

And with one of them – our State was the State that under Parris Glendening really advanced in a very positive way the notion of smart growth. We continue that legacy in Maryland. Our website is labeled Smart Maryland: Smart, Green and Growing.

And one of the things that we did last year was to pass some – you're always doing these things in increments and steps. And smart growth legislation, which among other things, clarified and reiterated that once a county adopts a comprehensive plan, they need to stick to the comprehensive plan. A novel idea, but we think a good one if they actually do it.

We've taken on many projects that, frankly, fall way outside the metes and bounds of what any of us would describe as sustainable and smart growth. And, more recently, we are promoting Smart Sites. That is, actually putting objective criteria to sites that are actually smart, actually sustainable, and then rushing to clear all permitting hurdles so that those sites can actually go and move forward.

Another thing that we're doing this year is legislation to expand what had been called the Heritage Tax Credits in our State, and we're now calling them Sustainable Tax Credits, increasing the dollar amount, but also allowing not only for the historic nature of the buildings, but also whether or not they might be part of these new sustainable communities, whether they might be transit-oriented development.

We also passed legislation that made it explicit that reducing miles and doing the transit oriented development is a goal of our transportation investment dollars. And we're so glad that Secretary LaHood took from us our Secretary of Transportation, John Porcari, to run that department. And we regret that we have no more cabinet to give to our President. (Laughter.)

Let me wrap up by talking about two other important things.

So much of what we do in a government of, by and for the people, is limited in one important sense. We can only go as far as the public we serve is informed. We can only go as far as the public we serve is informed.

So some of the things that I believe, frankly, hold the greatest potential for adoption in other states and throughout our country and, indeed, as CitiStat was adopted by a lot of other cities, are a few of these last few things I would like to talk about.

Along with that truth that we can only go as far as the people are informed – people cannot redesign and re-imagine what we cannot see. We cannot redesign and re-imagine what we cannot see. Maps, GIS maps, the ability to see what human activity on the land is doing in terms of land consumption. The ability to understand how natural hydrology works and what human interaction and development within that does to nature's ability to cleanse the water.

If you imagine our State – probably 21 percent of our State is preserved, the land is preserved, 21 percent is developed, and our future, the future we all hope to safeguard for our children, is going to be determined and defined by what happens in that remaining 58 percent.

We've advanced a few things that we believe can help our people better see, better re-imagine and better redesign the future we choose.

One of them is Green Print. We have done an ecological mapping of every single parcel within our State, every parcel of land within our State. And we are able to map online for all to see. And I encourage any of you – especially if you're having difficulty falling asleep tonight – to go online and check out Maryland's GreenPrint. I do believe we're the first State in the Union to do this on a Statewide basis.

And so now people can click on to their own county and see in a sort of dashboard form how much of our land that we need to preserve has been preserved and how much more do we need to protect through zoning or Program Open Space or other things.

It also allows you to evaluate the purchases that we now make with an objective criteria that ranks and scores open space purchases, so people can click on and see why they bought that parcel. That parcel connects to this other parcel. It makes up part of that minimum amount of green lungs, green liver, green kidneys that this ecological body of Maryland needs in order to filter the water and maintain this balance of health for the future.

So that's one side of the page, if you will. That margin on one side is GreenPrint.

On the other side of the margin is AgPrint. Where are our most valuable farm lands? Where do they exist now, how do we preserve that connectedness, that continuity? And if we are able to see on the maps where those minimum margins are on either side, then it makes our goal a little clearer, in terms of what we need to develop in the middle.

While our State has been a leader in smart growth, we were required to have a State Development Plan in a law that was passed in 1972 and we've never had one. Never had one since 1972. And where we're going with a State Development Plan? It goes down the middle of that page and it produces in a way that everyone can see, where are those areas where it's best for us to be able to develop, to rebuild and to recreate this future of ours.

I leave you with this final thought. I think all of us feel that we have an obligation in our own personal lives through the government that we elect, that we pay taxes to support, to first and foremost take actions to safeguard our children's future. In order to do that we must constantly be about the work of justice, constantly be about the work of security, about the work of job creation, environmental sustainability, and fiscal responsibility.

And as we are about that work I think we also need to recognize that in order to make progress on one of those, we have to make progress on all of those.

This is the dawn of an exciting and new conceptual age when we are going to see and imagine and create a new future – not by reducing things to their finite selves,

but by understanding the connections between the connections, the relationships between the relationships. The relationship between making a city safer and protecting open space and making a better world for our kids.

Thanks very much. (Applause.)



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GM Green Jobs Announcement

January 26th, 2010

White Marsh, Maryland

(As Prepared)

I'd like to thank Bill Tiger, Tom Stephens, and everyone with General Motors, particularly here at the White Marsh facility. We're joined today by UAW Region Director Gary Casteel, Darren Petty, President of our State UAW, and Fred Swanner, President of UAW Local 239 ,...

Can we have a round of applause for all the UAW workers who will be building the next generation of green electric motors right here in the State of Maryland?

Senator Mikulski, Senator Cardin, Congressman Ruppertsberger, County Executive Jim Smith – thank you for your leadership and partnership. Today's announcement is a great example of business, labor and federal, state, and local government working together.

We are focused on the goals of creating jobs and protecting jobs, and strengthening and growing the ranks of an increasingly diverse, upwardly mobile middle class.

Creating Jobs with GM

We are very proud here in the State of Maryland to be home to this White Marsh plant where our fellow Marylanders at GM will be building the hybrid engines of the future. And we're proud to be investing \$4.5 million to help make this happen.

GM is on its way back, advancing the renewable, cleaner, greener, technologies of tomorrow that also happen to be the technologies consumers want more and more. Lt. Governor Brown and I both make use of hybrid Chevy Tahoes, in fact.

In many ways, GM's path from recovery to prosperity is a metaphor for our entire country.

Green technology is good for our environment, good for business, and good for job creation in our State.

Conclusion

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In Maryland, innovation is something we do well. And with our #1 best public school system and our world class workforce and institutions of science, discovery, and higher learning, we're in position to grow Maryland's Innovation Economy so that we can create even more jobs, save more jobs, and expand opportunity to every greater numbers of our people.

Thanks again to the hardworking people of General Motors.



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State of the State

February 2nd, 2010

Annapolis, Maryland

Mr. Speaker, Mr. President, Lieutenant Governor Brown; Treasurer Kopp, Comptroller Franchot; Attorney General Gansler; Attorney General Curran; colleagues in city and county government; men and women of the Maryland General Assembly; Former Governors Mandel and Glendening; Members of the Cabinet; Congressman Kratovil, Congressman Ruppersberger, Katie O'Malley; my fellow citizens:

I'd like to ask that all of us observe a moment of silence in honor of the brave Marylanders who we've lost over the course of this last year fighting for our country abroad in Iraq and in Afghanistan,...and also for the people of Haiti who are recovering from that devastating earthquake.

We have said goodbye to a number of great Marylanders over the course of this last year. Just last week, we said goodbye to former First Lady Pat Hughes, a woman of grace and class and strength. And earlier this morning, I attended the funeral of the great Mac Mathias, a man who through thirty years of noble service epitomized not only what it means to be a United States Senator, but also epitomized what it means to be a citizen.

Introduction

It is a true honor to join you here, once again, in this historic building – the oldest State Capitol in the United States of America – where Marylanders have come together, year after year, to renew our democracy and to move our State forward. In this place of the people's will, we express our differences of opinion mindful of the fact that all of us, gathered here to serve, act on behalf of Maryland, and there is only One Maryland.

We are here because we care about people – all people. And to safeguard our children's future, we are committed to the work of justice, security, job creation, environmental sustainability, and fiscal responsibility, understanding that progress for one requires progress for all.

In times of great adversity, we don't make excuses – we make progress. We set aside partisanship and embrace the power of citizenship, guided by the values that

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unite us: our belief in the dignity of every individual; our belief in our own responsibility to advance the common good; our understanding that there is a unity to spirit and to matter, that one person can make a difference, each of us must try, and God loves even the partial victories.

Today I'd like to talk with you about how we can help our businesses, large and small, to create jobs, to save jobs, and to expand opportunity. I'd like to talk with you about the tough, but right, choices we must make together; and about the importance of being fiscally responsible so that we can protect homeownership and defend the hardwon progress of the hardworking Maryland families we serve.

Fiscal Responsibility

The choices we've made together as One Maryland over these past three years have allowed us to weather this severe economic storm better than most states.

We have used the pressure of shrinking revenues to create higher performance, stronger connections, smarter interventions, and more intelligent standards of care. The ongoing financial crisis has called upon us to reimagine what a government can do well, and to redesign better ways to serve and protect the people of Maryland as we move forward.

But just as families and businesses have seen their incomes decline, so too have state revenues. In fact, it has been the steepest decline across the 50 states in modern history.

Every year, this Administration has submitted – and you have passed – a state budget that is not only balanced, but a budget that has been introduced, at the outset, as within the limits of spending affordability guidelines.

For the first time in more than 40 years, the budget I propose to you this year calls for lower general fund spending than four years ago and it will bring total spending cuts and reductions this term to \$5.6 billion.

We have chosen to be fiscally responsible; indeed, progress is only possible with fiscal responsibility. That's why Maryland is one of only seven states in America that continues to retain a Triple A Bond Rating – a seal of fiscal responsibility certified by all three major rating agencies.

As a result of the choices we've made in the face of adversity, the state of our State is stronger than most, and in areas like public education, it is stronger than every other state in the union.

Our Economy

But this national economic downturn – the worst since the Great Depression – has dealt crushing blows of joblessness, home foreclosure and displacement to tens of thousands of Maryland families.

Although fourth quarter economic growth was the strongest our country has seen in six years, the storm is not over.

Wall Street has been stabilized but Main Street still suffers. Every Maryland family

has been hit in some way: neighbors who still can't find work; fellow citizens tossing and turning all night, worried about how they'll afford this month's heating bill or last month's mortgage or rent; family-owned businesses and family farms struggling just to survive; children who go to bed hungry, who wake up hungry, who go to school hungry.

I want to share with you a brief excerpt from a letter not unlike the letters that all of you are receiving yourselves. This one is from a woman named "Martha" who writes:

"...[T]imes are hard and things are tight,... I am living on the edge, my rent for my apartment is one month behind, my phone and internet service is scheduled to be cut off. I have been trying to find employment and am 53 years old. I never thought that I would be going through this at this point in my life."

In every part of our State, I meet good people who have worked hard all their lives, only to watch their piece of the American dream slip away due to forces seemingly beyond their control,... who want only the opportunity to work, and the freedom to build a better life for themselves and for their children.

Protecting Homeownership

It has been said that the most powerful place in the world is the family home. Over these last difficult years, far too much of that power has been taken from us. When just one Marylander has to look their child in the eyes and tell them "the mortgage company told us we have to move," it affects all of us. When a house is boarded up and left vacant, it impacts entire neighborhoods, entire communities, entire towns, entire cities, entire counties, entire states.

Because of your work and also because of the persistence of nonprofit housing counselors and pro bono lawyers, many homes in Maryland have been saved, but many more have been lost in the relentless, grinding, home-destroying machinery of national mortgage companies. If they can pick up the phone to put a family into a home, shouldn't they be able to pick up the phone before throwing a family out of their home?

I need your help. The hardworking people of Maryland need your help. Families of Maryland need your help. I need you to stand up for homeowners in Maryland and put them on an equal footing with these faceless giants. I need you to pass legislation this year that forces mortgage companies to come to the settlement table before they can throw another family out on the street.

Creating Jobs

But it is not enough to defend, we must also advance. There is no government program that is as important or as empowering as a job. Therefore, progress requires that we focus the energies of this session on three primary actions: creating jobs, saving jobs, and protecting jobs.

Last week, President Obama rightly said, "the true engine of job creation in this country will always be America's businesses. But government can create the conditions necessary for businesses to expand and hire more workers."

To rebuild and restore our economy, we must help our businesses create and save jobs. Jobs from innovation in science, security, and discovery. Jobs of noble and valuable service. Jobs that create and rebuild our vital connections of travel, trade, and business. Jobs that revitalize and restore our environment. Jobs in teaching, jobs in manufacturing, jobs in healing – they all matter.

This month we concluded a nation-leading public-private partnership at the Port of Baltimore that will create 5,700 new jobs in construction and port operations; and just last week General Motors announced that it will build its new generation of electric hybrid motors here in Maryland, in Baltimore County – creating new green manufacturing jobs and new opportunities. This job-creating partnership was only possible because of the investments of the critically important American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, along with the strong actions of your state and the strong actions of Baltimore County and the leadership of Jim Smith, and businesses, and labor – all working together.

And together, we can and we must do more.

That's why this year, I'm asking for your help to create a \$3,000 tax credit for every person hired off of Maryland's unemployment rolls.

And because small businesses create nearly two out of three jobs in Maryland, I'm also asking you to pass emergency legislation to provide \$83 million of relief from rapidly escalating Unemployment Insurance Premiums.

What's more, because small business lending has virtually dried up in the course of this national economic downturn, I'm asking for your support to create a new small business loan guaranty program, as we simplify the application process so that we can create and improve the conditions necessary to allow small businesses to borrow the dollars they need for expansion, to create and to save jobs.

Here in Maryland, thanks to President Obama's leadership and Maryland's effectiveness, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act has helped us not only to protect public safety, public education, and public health, but it has also allowed us to create or save 19,000 jobs. And in the year ahead, Recovery Act reinvestment projects will continue to create and save thousands and thousands of greatly needed construction jobs in our State, rebuilding our State.

Working with private businesses in our construction trades, I'm asking you to create jobs through major investments in this year's proposed capital budget – rebuilding schools, rebuilding roads and water infrastructure, rebuilding community colleges, and science labs; important work that will support over 20,000 construction jobs in Maryland next year.

I am also asking you to advance smarter growth through better mass transit with important longterm investments like the Purple Line and Red Line, which will create jobs.

Working with imaginative redevelopers and green developers, I'm asking you to revitalize our historic downtowns and Main Streets – along with new green neighborhoods – by passing a new Sustainable Communities Tax Credit. Building on the success of the Heritage Tax Credits, we know that we can leverage tens of millions of dollars in private investment to create hundreds of jobs now, and

thousands moving forward.

Thanks to Lt. Governor Brown's leadership from the first days of this Administration – and the advocacy of Senator Mikulski and our entire congressional delegation – 60,000 additional jobs are coming to Maryland through BRAC: the Base Realignment and Closure process.

We need to leverage the enormous job-creating potential of more than 50 federal facilities in Maryland, which along with our businesses and institutions of science, discovery, and higher learning and healing, are the backbone of Maryland's Innovation Economy: life sciences, biotech, high-tech, clean-tech, green tech, Cyber Security. Our work is to leverage these Innovation Assets to create more jobs and more opportunities for more Maryland families.

With the enormous potential of Maryland's Innovation Economy, we are seeking to reinvigorate Science, Technology, Engineering and Math education in every part of our State; to reengage our students with environmental and financial literacy; and to create in our workforce the "Skills2Compete" through a coordinated statewide strategy of promoting skills training, apprenticeships, and post-secondary education.

And because Maryland's greatest economic asset is our highly educated and highly skilled workforce, I am asking you to invest, once again, in the children of Maryland with a record level of funding for K-12 Education.

Not By Chance, By Choice

Progress does not happen by itself, it is the product of choices.

Think about it,...

It is not by chance but by choice that we now do more than most every other state to support veterans upon their return home from service in Iraq or Afghanistan.

It is not by chance but by choice that for the second year in a row, we have created the #1 ranked, best public school system in the United States of America.

It is not by chance but by choice that – alone among the 50 states – we together have made college more affordable for more Maryland families by going four years in a row without a penny's increase in college tuition for Maryland residents.

It is not by chance but by choice that together with courageous police offices throughout law enforcement, we have been able to drive violent crime in Maryland down to its lowest levels since 1987 – including the steepest three-year reduction in homicides since the 1970s, and a 46% reduction in juvenile homicides over the same period of time.

It is not by chance but by choice that the Port of Baltimore, once a laughingstock of failed homeland security efforts, now receives near-perfect security reviews from the United States Coast Guard.

It is not by chance but by choice that 146,000 more Marylanders today have health insurance and 65,000 of them are children.

It is not by chance but by choice that we have increased opportunities for women-

and minority-owned businesses to record levels in our State.

It is not by chance but by choice that four rivers of the Chesapeake Bay are now getting healthier every year rather than sicker; that we have preserved five and half times the amount of open space than we did before; or that the blue crab population is rebounding; or that we are finally embracing the power of a new aquaculture industry to bring back the native Oyster.

As we move Maryland forward out of this recession and into better times, we will need to continue to make the tough but critically important choices necessary to expand opportunity and strengthen families; the choices that grow our middle class and allow us to make progress together.

The choices that give all of our children the education that they need to compete and win in a global economy. The choices that make us safer and more secure every day. The choices that strengthen our laws against child predators. The choices that make it possible for Maryland to eradicate childhood hunger.

The choices that make us a leader in energy conservation and renewable energy. The choices that rebuild our cities, our towns, and our inner beltway neighborhoods in a Maryland that is Smart, Green and Growing. The choices that restore the American dream and allow us to make "Genuine Progress." The choices that protect Maryland, the choices that make Maryland, Maryland – for our children and our children's children.

One Maryland, Forward Together

But in order to move forward as One Maryland, there is another kind of work which we must do as a people. It is not the work of our hands or of our heads, but of our hearts. For there is a dark thing that has penetrated deep into our collective soul, a thing that has to be recognized, seen for what it is and rejected by us all. It is the debilitating and un-American idea that our children will not enjoy a better quality of life than we have,... that somehow we are destined to decline, backslide and fail...

With every fiber of my being, I reject this notion. I find it utterly unacceptable and so do the generations ahead of ours.

This recession will end. Our journey is not over. And our best days are still in front of us if we make it so!

Ironically, it is the very immensity of the problems we face with respect to climate change, terror, resource scarcity, energy security, and health that is driving innovation in every sphere of education, technology and life sciences – endeavors that all of us are able to rightly count among Maryland's greatest competitive economic strengths.

From the schools, the laboratories, and the companies of Maryland are emerging the discoveries and technologies that will remake our world. We are not at the edge of a cliff; we are at the threshold of brilliant science, innovative technology and remarkable discoveries that will transform, for the better, the way we "feed, fuel, and heal" this world of ours.

We have a hundred years of creative work ahead of us – brilliant, sustaining,

innovative service, a profound act of citizenship and participation that can bring us closer to each other and to this extraordinary place we call home.

Conclusion

Connecting Maryland's journey to its resources, creativity and dreams is our great work.

To the cynical who say government is not the answer, I ask, what then is the question? For if the question is how to create jobs,... how to get our economy going again,... how to reimagine what it means to be a Marylander in these challenging times, and how to create greater freedom, opportunity, and justice for all,... then a working and effective government is an indispensable and essential part of the answer. But only part; for government cannot be a substitute for citizenship. It can never replace the power of the individual, the power of individual creativity, the power of individual choices responsibly and courageously made.

Each of us is needed. All of us must act. The truth is, every person has an important story to tell, an important story to live. Together, over time, the people of Maryland have written a narrative that endures and grows. It is not a story of failure or fear. It is a story of genius and courage, threads of our being, stitched to an uncertain future wherein we act with courage, respect, and conscience to make a better life for our children.

For Maryland is not simply an isolated political entity or label outside there somewhere. It is something we share with one another and with the generations that will follow ours. The children born in our city centers are just as much our heritage and gift as are the tidewaters of the Eastern Shore and mountains of Western Maryland. There is no resting point where we finally know that we have secured a safe and prosperous future. The principles that inform our deeds and actions demand constant work, vigilance, reaffirmation, and reawakening.

We are blessed to have inherited the backbone and mettle of generations past. The rivers, forests, shores, and waters of this extraordinary state are ever our allies. And with us always are the quiet prayers of gratitude and encouragement of future generations watching.

In the eyes of every child is a shining message that we are born to be good, and that we experience our goodness by being kind and generous to each other.

May we embody this wisdom in our dreams and in the actions we take,... as One Maryland,...moving forward,... together.



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Maryland Agricultural Council

February 4th, 2010

Glen Burnie, Maryland

Thank you all very much. To President Colby Ferguson and everyone with the Council, thank you for your leadership and your kind invitation to join you here tonight. To all my colleagues who are with us in state and local government, it's an honor to join you – I look forward to working with you in this upcoming session on shared priorities like protecting farming jobs and keeping family farming profitable, protecting contiguous tracts of farmland, and growing smarter as a State.

We have Secretary Buddy Hance and Deputy Secretary Mary Ellen Setting with us from the Maryland Department of Agriculture – who both do a terrific job.

I also really want to thank Governor Harry Hughes for being here tonight and also for your leadership and everything that you do to keep Maryland, Maryland, Governor. You're a terrific Governor and you're a terrific human being and I really want to thank you for joining us here. (Applause.)

And know that all of us are thinking of you at this difficult time when you so recently said goodbye to your wife, a woman of class and grace and strength that we were all very blessed to have as our First Lady.

I know that you're as anxious as I am to get to the program and hear about those who are going to be inducted in the Hall of Fame. But I did want to share with you a few brief thoughts.

Strengthening Maryland Agriculture

Let me talk with you briefly about fiscal responsibility, and about some of the things that we've been able to do together and also some important work that we have to do, in not only the days and weeks, but in the years ahead.

In order to make agriculture stronger in Maryland there is no reason why our best days cannot be in front of us, if we choose to make it so.

We have a strong, strong tradition of agriculture. We have a strong agricultural economy. The things that we're doing together are allowing us to pass that on to the next generation. But we wouldn't be able to do that without all of your individual and collective work.

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For the first time since the 1930s General Fund spending in our State is actually lower now than it was four years ago. That's the first time that's happened. It's required us to make a tremendous number of cuts, reductions, budget cut after budget cut after budget cut and, yet still, we are one of only seven states in the union that still has a Triple A bond rating.

We are the only State in the union that has been named not once, but two years in a row, as having the best public schools in America. We've been able to drive the crime down to its lowest level since 1987.

And despite those challenges we have not diverted any money from Program Open Space or the MALPF Program, the things which allow us to protect contiguous parcels of agriculture and agricultural economies.

Why do I go through those things? These are some of the most difficult times we've seen economically in a long, long time. I don't need to tell you, all of you know.

But we will come through these times. This recession will end. Our best days are still in front of us and when we come out of this, we're actually going to be stronger than we were heading into it.

Thomas Jefferson called agriculture the "first and most precious of all the arts." Everywhere that the Lieutenant Governor and I travel in our State we emphasize our mission statement, which is this: that whether it's exercising fiscal responsibility, improving public education and public safety, expanding opportunity, it all comes down to one top-line goal. And that is to strengthen and grow the ranks of an increasingly, upwardly mobile and more diverse middle class, which means our family-owned businesses and our family farms. Our family-owned businesses and our family-owned farms.

That's why I come every year. Because you are critically important to the mission statement that is Maryland. When we brought together so many of you from all over our State to be part of the transition effort three years ago, you made about 109 recommendations and we have completed or are still working on a total of 102 of those.

On February 19th we will be continuing this important work, while working to chart a 15 year plan for Maryland agriculture at our State Agriculture Forum. I hope that all of you will participate in that as well.

Tonight I wanted to share a couple items with you about the ways that we've been able to work together in order to create that better future that all of us want — namely, strengthening our family-owned farms, making farming more profitable and growing smarter and greener.

We have worked very closely with United States Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, who I think Buddy would agree has been very, very accessible to us. And we've been working with him to support our livestock and poultry industries and secure Federal dollars for soil conservation districts, a new Eastern Shore Animal Health facility, and cover crops.

Another area where we've been working together has to do with mitigating the hit that so many of us in this room who are dairy farmers have taken in this recession.

We know more help is necessary, but so far we've been able to secure \$2.5 million through the Dairy Economic Loss Assistance Program, along with FSA Loan Relief and MILC payments of \$5.8 million.

Buying Local

We have been very hard at work, as have many of you in this room, pushing the whole theme of Buy Local. To the extent that we can get more and more people to Buy Local, that's good for agriculture, it's good for our kids,... healthier plates, healthier planet.

Through Maryland's Best, your Department of Agriculture and state government are now partnering with retailers like Safeway, Whole Foods, Weiss, Wal-Mart, Wegman's, and restaurants and markets throughout our One Maryland.

Maryland farmers also received more than \$605,000 in direct income from WIC clients.

I need your help pushing this Buy Local effort.

Schools in every county are participating to some degree or another in the Jane Lawton Farm to School Program, buying products from 30 different producers in our State. But we can and must do more.

I need your help advocating to your own county school boards, your own boards of education. Partnering with them and helping them figure out that they need to Buy Local. If all of our schools could do more in terms of buying local, it would do so much for our farm economy here in Maryland. And I need your help in order to get that done.

I also hope you'll support us on our truth in advertising Buy Local Bill, so that people can't ship in things from California, slap a label on them, call them Maryland, and have them masquerade as local goods.

One Maryland: Smart, Green & Growing

Working together over these past years, we've invested \$204 million and preserved nearly 33,000 acres on 263 Maryland farms for fully funding MALPF, rather than raiding it to fill budget holes. And I need your help to protect that this year.

If you haven't gone online also to check out the Ag Print — we're the first in the nation to actually post an Ag Print online so you can see every parcel of the farmland so critically important that we need to be able to preserve so we have a functioning, healthy farm and agriculture economy in our State.

Also I want to thank all of you for what you're doing on land conservation in our State — and I want to congratulate St. Mary's Soil Conservation District, who just got an award for being the best boots on the ground, in terms of doing those best farming practices that all of you know so well, that so many of you have been engaged in.

Despite these tough economic times, all of you continue to set an outstanding example with increased conservation activity such as CREP and cover crop

enrollment and the installation of a record number of Best Management Practices through MACs this year

I want to thank all of you who planted cover crops this last year. I know it was hard. I know Mother Nature did not cooperate and I know that it wasn't easy, but I do want to thank you for that. And I also want to make a pitch to you to help us do even more next year. We've put in more dollars over these last four years in cover crops than we have in the past. But I need your help to maximize that program.

I also want to thank you for embracing best management practices. This is the 25th anniversary of the cost-sharing program. In the past three years we've approved \$28 million in grants that farmers will match with \$3.5 million of their own to install 1,963 practices on their farms. We've also done some good things together on Gypsy Moth suppression.

Conclusion

Let me wind up by talking not off a script and not off a list, but from my heart.

Right now throughout our entire country, throughout our entire world, I think that we have never become more conscious of just how much our activities on our land – and our energy use – are so very vitally connected to our entire environment.

Now, that's something that no one has to make farmers aware of. You know that. You always have. In many cases your families have done that for generations and generations. If you look at the great work that all of us have of passing on the beauty and the health of this Bay region to our kids, you have led the way.

If you go on our BayState website you can see some things are going in the wrong direction. But if you look at the way that farmers in the last 20 years in Maryland have been engaging in and implementing best farming practices, the fact of the matter is that farmers are doing a lot better by the Bay than many things like storm-water and septic run-off and a lot of things that come from development. (Applause.)

And I don't just say that in the Ag dinners. I say that everywhere I go. It's true. We've done a lot of good things on upgrading the waste-water treatment plants, but you know what? The storm-water is still going in the wrong direction, the septic stuff is going in the wrong direction.

But the best management practices, the things that all of you are doing in your own operations, sometimes at too much of your own expense, are actually bringing the run-off and the nitrogen that goes in the Bay down. And you're doing better virtually every year since 1985.

So why do I bring this up? I bring this up because all of us have an imperative to do everything that we can to improve the health of the Chesapeake Bay.

Governor Hughes championed that. He understood that the Bay is the soul of Maryland, but he also understood that all of us have a role to play. I have been involved in many meetings with our new EPA Director. They are committed people. They want to do their job.

And again and again I have said publicly, and I have said privately, in those councils and those meetings, that we do not want to swap our family-owned farms in Maryland for massive development of housing projects. That wouldn't be good for the Bay, it wouldn't be good for our economy, it wouldn't be good for agriculture and it wouldn't be good for the next generation of Marylanders.

But I need your help. I need your help to embrace some of these things like cover crops and the other things that we know we can do to show that we don't need the heavy arm of regulation pounding on us, we know how to do this. We can hit the two year milestones, we can hit the benchmarks.

We can do things that involve clean tech and green tech and other things that make farming more profitable, that open up markets abroad for poultry and the other products of this State. And we can actually show the rest of the country what can be done.

But you know what? We do not want one set of farm regulations in Maryland and another for the rest of the country. (Applause.)

So let me conclude by saying this. I think we have an opportunity here. I think we have a real opportunity to set a 15 year path for our State, a 15 year path for agriculture that is also a positive path for the Chesapeake Bay.

I will never, have never, will never set agriculture up as the culprit for the health of the Bay. The truth of the matter is, we're doing a lot of things right, a lot of things better than we ever have, and farmers have been doing more than a lot of the rest of us.

So don't give up, don't despair. I know that all of you are anxious about a new administration and a new EPA. I'm going to be at that table. I'm going to fight for you every single day as I always have. It's a great honor to be here with you once again. And I look forward to coming back, with your help, four more times to this agriculture event. Thanks. (Applause.)



Tags: [agriculture](#), [conservation](#), [economy](#), [Farmers](#), [health](#), [Maryland Department of Agriculture](#)

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Testimony of Governor Martin O'Malley

February 16th, 2010

House Environmental Matters Committee

ORAL STATEMENT

Madam Chair, Members of the Committee, it is an honor to have the opportunity to testify before you today, and to join Congressman Elijah Cummings, a passionate advocate for the people of our state, for all the people of our state, a great champion of Maryland's middle class families, as well as Secretary Skinner and Secretary Sanchez, who are both doing an outstanding job.

The progress of a free and democratic people depends on the strength, growth, diversity and upward mobility of its middle class. That is the land of greater opportunity.

Our Administration is therefore focused – and I know the General Assembly is focused as well – not only on creating and saving jobs, but saving as many homes as we possibly can in our state in the face of this recession.

To lose just one home – to have just one mother or father look their child in the eye and tell them “the bank told us we have to move” – is a tragedy which impacts us all. To have lost more than 315,000 homes across America to foreclosure in the month of January is a national crisis which has been verified here in Maryland as well.

In our State, where we are united by our belief in the dignity of every individual and our belief that there is no such thing as a spare Marylander or a spare American, these losses are unacceptable.

Protecting Homeownership

In the past three years, working together we've undertaken an array of reforms and actions with a unity of purpose: to save the homes of our fellow citizens. You passed – and I signed – what the Washington Post called some of the most “sweeping” foreclosure redemption statutes in America to combat foreclosure. We've reached agreements with multiple mortgage servicing companies to create a streamlined and transparent loss mitigation process. Through Judge Bell, we have been able to recruit 981 lawyers working on a pro bono basis to fight to preserve home ownership. Through the HOPE network, non-profit counselors – supported by state

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government – have assisted more than 35,000 Marylanders. And in 2009 alone, DLLR secured \$2.9 million in refunds from financial institutions for consumers.

Our efforts together, as One Maryland, have saved more than 9,800 homes (9812). And in January we achieved a 23% reduction in foreclosure events. But too many of our fellow citizens continue to be put out on the street. Our work must continue. The recent decline in January is in stark contrast to the increases that have happened in the months just ahead of January.

Legislation

The legislation the Committee considers today, is designed to empower fellow Marylanders, putting them on a more equal footing with their mortgage companies. One of challenges that we found that never was spoken, non-profit housing counseling agents throughout the state, groups like collective banking group and others who tried to help in this fight, was when they tried to make a call, they could not get the mortgage companies to pick up the phone. We believe and by passing this legislation we will affirmatively and very directly say if you can pick up the phone to put a family into a home, shouldn't you be able to pick up the phone before foreclosing on a home?

More specifically, it is designed to give borrowers the information they need at an early stage, as well as the right to have access to their lenders when they feel they are unfairly being denied a loan modification or other loss mitigation options.

Studies have shown that in states which have similar mediation laws, foreclosures are avoided in 70% of cases.

The legislation has four major components:

It requires servicers to provide critical information about timelines and the tools available to borrowers that can save their homes – and to provide this critical information with every Notice of Intent. The required information will include:

- A loss mitigation application and instructions for completion and follow-up;

- The Hope hotline number;

- A foreclosure timeline;

- An explanation of eligibility requirements for loan modification programs; and

- Additional loss mitigation options and information on other options for a positive outcome.

It seeks to limit the number of foreclosure cases that get filed in Court in the first place by prohibiting servicers from filing for foreclosure against a borrower until the servicer can file an affidavit that they have offered or tried to offer the borrower any and all available loan modification and loss mitigation options that are available.

It says that eligible borrowers must have the right to mediation before a foreclosure sale can take place.

It requires servicers to pay a modest \$100 “cost of business” filing fee for foreclosures and uses the revenue to help fund housing counselors and defray judicial costs.

Conclusion

As I close, I'd like to thank the stakeholder workgroup that has been instrumental in

working on this. I know there are some issues that remain to be worked out with the group and the courts are certainly concerned about the potential workload and whether or not the \$100 cost of this filing fee is sufficient to help with the mediation costs that will be brought about by this, but we remain committed to getting input so that we have the best bill possible for Marylanders.

I also want to thank the institutions that have chosen to support these efforts, including notably Wells Fargo, who I understand has sent a representative here to testify. Much like this recession, no one knows for sure when this national foreclosure crisis will end. Until it does, we must do everything in our power to slow down this machinery that keeps throwing people out of homes without even picking up the phone. Other states that have taken these steps have had positive results for home ownership and the strength of their middle class.

I urge your favorable consideration of this bill so we can do even more than we have done to slow down, to put the brakes on this foreclosure machine. And I thank you very, very much for your time and attention and leadership.



Tags: [general assembly](#), [homeownership](#), [homes](#), [middle class](#)

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Higher Education Press Conference

March 5th, 2010

Annapolis, Maryland

(As Prepared)

Thank you Mr. Speaker. Lt. Governor Brown, President Miller, it's an honor to join you here this morning. To Delegate Bohanan and to all the members of the Commission, on behalf of the people of Maryland thank you for what you are doing for our State.

It's been projected that 77% of job openings in the State of Maryland in the years ahead will require some education or training beyond a high school diploma.

If we want to be global leaders in security, if we want to be global leaders in science, if we want to compete, win, and prosper in the global economy, then we must be global leaders in the ways we advance and strengthen the skills and education of our greatest asset: our people.

Earlier this week, we announced our Skills2Compete initiative, with the vision of expanding access to education and training beyond high school to every Marylander. And we've set the big goals of improving student achievement and career and college readiness by 25%, improving the marketable skills of our adult workforce 20%, and creating, saving, and placing our fellow citizens into 250,000 growth sector jobs.

It all comes back to our topline goal of strengthening and growing the ranks of an increasingly diverse and upwardly mobile middle class.

Fighting for Higher Education

When as Governor, I talk to CEOs and foreign leaders interested in bringing jobs and opportunity to Maryland, our world-class colleges and universities are a major selling point,... our world-class workforce is a major selling point,.. and our #1 ranked, best in the nation public schools are a major selling point.

Working together with many people in this room and with our fellow citizens throughout our State, as One Maryland we've chosen to make progress for higher education – even and because of these tough times:

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Together, we've chosen to put the dreams of a college education within reach of more middle class families by freezing in-state tuition at our state colleges and universities not one, not two, not three, but four years in a row. It's not by chance but by choice that we're no longer 6th most expensive in America but are now projected to fall to 21st. And we've done it without compromising quality. Just as one example we can look at the University of Maryland College Park, which has increased it's Kiplinger ranking from 28th to 8th best value in public education – a measure not only of price but of quality.

Together, even in tough times, we've increased operating funding for the University System of Maryland by 29.5% and capital funding by 12.3% versus what was invested in the previous four years.

And working together, we're aligning the efforts of stakeholders in education, business, labor and government in common cause of preparing our students to succeed both in college and the workforce.

We have three bills before the legislature that we hope will allow us to build upon our progress in higher education:

We are proposing to make permanent the Higher Education Investment Fund, which you may recall that we created together during the special session. The fund, dedicates 6% of corporate income tax to higher education. Our proposal would create a dedicated tuition stabilization fund to help prevent future spikes in tuition like the 40% hike imposed on our students and their families in the four years prior to the tuition freeze.

We are proposing to codify our P-20 Council in law. The Council brings together stakeholders from in and out of government to prepare our students for college and workforce success, to advance our efforts to recruit and retain the best teachers and principals, and to re-invigorate Career and Technology Education and STEM – science, technology, engineering, and math education – in our State.

We are proposing to create a “longitudinal data system.” During my visit to Iraq, one of the soldiers I spoke with told me that “the worst thing you can do to intelligence is to sit on it.” That's true when it comes to education in more ways than one, and in our State – where we're united in our belief that there is no such thing as a spare Marylander – this proposed system will allow us to track students' progress from kindergarten all the way through higher education and into the workforce,... Allowing us to make sure no one slips through the cracks, and allowing us to measure our progress and adjust tactics and strategies to move our graphs in the right direction.

Conclusion

Once again, thank you Delegate Bohanan for your hard work and thank you to everyone on the Commission. At this time I'd like to bring up Larry Letow, not only of Bohanan Commission fame, but also a member of our Governor's Workforce Investment Board and the Maryland Tech Council.



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Tags: [Delegate Bohanan](#), [Higher Education Investment Fund](#), [jobs](#), [longitudinal data system](#), [Skills2Compete initiative](#)

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Remarks to the American Israel Public Affairs Committee

March 21st, 2010

Washington, DC

Thank you all very, very much. It's a great honor to be here with all of you. Shalom. Governor Pawlenty and Dr. Bar, it's an honor to join you here on this stage.

I want to thank everyone with AIPAC; Lee Rosenberg, David Victor, Howard Kor, and, of course, my friend, Baltimore's own, America's own, Howard Friedman. (Applause.)

Now, to all of you who are visiting from out of town, I hope you will allow me to please urge you during your time here to travel over the border and to come visit Maryland. Maryland is, of course, the birthplace of the Star Spangled Banner, which we'll be celebrating the bicentennial of later on this year. The Star Spangled Banner and Ft. McHenry.

It was also from the Port of Baltimore that the ship Exodus sailed in 1947, picking up hundreds of displaced Jewish refugees to bring them to the promised land. And it was the Poulin family, proud Marylanders, who led the effort to find the money to buy that ship and the provisions for its noble voyage. Abe Poulin, who passed away recently (may his memory serve as a blessing) was, not surprisingly, a long-time member of AIPAC's Board, and also a dear friend.

Maryland and Israel

Since those earliest of days, the people of Israel and the people of Maryland have collaborated on everything from marine biotechnology and agricultural research to homeland security. And, in fact, we were the first state to institute jointly funded research and development teams with Israel.

Israel, of course, is a bold leader in innovation. Our State, Maryland, which boasts the highest number of PhDs per capita of any state in the union, also believes that our future and the future of our economy depends on our ability to invest in the skills of our people; our innovative capacity in the life sciences, biotech, clean tech, green tech, information technology and, increasingly, in cyber security.

And we see great potential to expand successful partnerships with Israel in this

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area. In fact, the Maryland Israel Development Center, a joint venture between our State government and Maryland's Jewish community, currently has a team visiting Israel to host a cyber security seminar.

At present there are nearly 30 Israeli companies in Maryland, including Teva Pharmaceuticals, Israel's largest bio-science company and one of the world's largest manufacturers of generic drugs.

There is a strong relationship that continues and is evidenced throughout our State.

We are proud to host a large community of Israeli nationals living in Maryland, working in places like NIH and the Embassy. I even understand that in my boyhood home of Rockville there are so many families of Israeli diplomats that there is an apartment complex there that is referred to as the "kibbutz," the "Rockville kibbutz," if you will. (Laughter.) There is also an Israeli Business Network, a Hebrew-language Israeli Boy Scout Troop, and – of course – throughout our State, one of the most vibrant Jewish communities anywhere in America.

My very able Jewish-American speechwriter, who helps me wrestle with words, Steve Rabin, is out there. And I pulled him over to the table and I said, "now, I don't know if I go for this one or not." He said, "I think you do." So in deference to Steve, I will share with you — given the confluence of AIPAC's meeting here, very historic, and the high holy day of my people, Irish American people, St Patrick's Day, coinciding — I'm willing to share this with you. And I do so because of the place where we come together, the greatest republic in the history of the planet, the United States of America. (Applause.)

This appeared in the Jerusalem Post this last St. Patrick's Day and the person who wrote this of Irish people and Jewish people, said that quote "both people suffered death and cruelty at the hands of oppressors. While many now live in small, beautiful and [spiritually intense] homelands of Ireland and Israel, the greater portion of both [peoples] remain scattered to the four corners of the earth,... When [our] two peoples melded together in the great melting pot of America, they collaborated in some part of the most extraordinary human achievements of all time: the space race, the moon landings and the defeat of communism and Nazism,... As the Irish and the Israelis now strive to build lasting peace in their own homelands, it is heartening to note that in the tapestry of human life, we all share far more similarities than differences."

I've been blessed with two opportunities to travel to Israel, both times along with Howard Friedman, and others who are here tonight. The first was in 2005. I was Mayor of the City of Baltimore and I wanted to see for myself how is it that this country so threatened and so surrounded so often by hostile neighbors is able to preserve the fabric of a democratic society with its protection of individual rights and freedoms and also fulfill its responsibility, the fundamental responsibility, of securing its own homeland.

I learned a lot during that trip. And just about two years ago I had a chance to visit for the second time, leading a delegation from our State to work on advanced partnerships with Israeli companies in the biosciences. Another area where Israel competes so far above its weight class. Israel actually exports more healing on a per capita basis than any other country on the earth, which is why we regard them

as such an important economic partner. (Applause)

It's a beautiful illustration, don't you think, of that Talmudic truth that the highest form of wisdom is kindness. That the highest form of wisdom is kindness — a truth that we were all reminded of when we saw Israel lead the way in assistance to the people of Haiti, some of the first responders. (Applause.)

On both of the trips that I have had the blessing and the privilege to be able to take to Israel, I was struck by not only the tremendous beauty and the sense of history, which you can feel in the air, you can feel it come up through the soles of your shoes. I was also struck by the warmth, the generosity, the courage, the resilience, the determination of the people of Israel.

And I will never, ever forget the stark beauty of the Masada or the awe I felt in the old city, a place where my mind's eye still wanders back, especially when the General Assembly in Annapolis is driving me crazy and I need some centering.

I also had occasion, as Governor Pawlenty had, to visit Yad Vashem twice, which is also an experience that I will never forget. Such a harrowing, searing experience to walk through those somber halls that bear witness to the millions who were murdered simply because they were Jewish.

But then you walked out of the darkness of those long halls and you come out into the light of sunshine and you see the new Israel, you see the new Jerusalem. To those who doubt the right of the Jewish people to live in their ancient homeland, let them come to Yad Vashem, let them emerge out of that darkness to view Israel in the light of the present.

A Special Relationship Based On Shared Values

In our time together, I just wanted to wrap up talking about two other thoughts.

The special relationship that we have as Americans with the State of Israel, our shared values, our belief in the dignity of every individual, our belief in the importance of freedom, and our shared strategic interests in something that's also very important and that is the shared security challenges. The shared security challenges.

Israel is our strategic ally and our friend, a fellow democracy in a region that knows no other. For these reasons, Israel has been our friend since its inception, she was our friend and ally as those around her sought her destruction, our friend and ally as together we forged in our own time to create a more just and a more lasting peace. And Israel was our friend, is our friend, and will always remain a steadfast friend of the United States of America. (Applause.)

Chief among those greatest of our shared threats is the prospect of Iran — the world's largest state-sponsored international terror — acquiring nuclear weapons capability. Iran is getting dangerously close. It has long been America's policy to deny Iran that capability and while I hope our diplomatic efforts succeed in dramatically escalating the international pressure on Tehran, we cannot wait indefinitely for those who are reluctant to act or to get onboard.

We must act now, with as many nations who are prepared to join with us, or, if

necessary, by ourselves, to impose sanctions on Iran. (Applause.)

And I'm proud that in Maryland, the people of our State are doing their part. We were one of the first states, as Howard mentioned, to pass legislation to divest our pension system from investments in companies helping Iran to develop its energy sector, the sector that provides Tehran, by the way, with 80 percent of its hard currency earnings.

Maryland's legislation, which I signed into law, is perhaps the toughest in the country. It's been suggested that the leadership that we took together for Maryland also helped encourage another 20 or more states to get on board and to follow our example of action.

Conclusion

Let me close with this final story. For generations the supporters of Israel and the United States have engaged in that beautiful tradition of investing in Israel's future by planting trees.

The story, which I'm fond of telling, is about a grandfather whose granddaughter came home and she had learned in science class that if you plant a tree, you actually help the environment, you help the whole earth, you help the whole planet. So this little girl wanting, of course, as all children do, to do the right thing instinctively, asked her grandfather, "Grandfather, I learned about the benefits of trees that clean the air and help with the stormwater, when is the best time to plant a tree?"

And the grandfather says, "Well, you know, it takes 20 years for the roots to go deep, it takes another 20 years — it takes the same 20 years for the branches to spread, to clean up the air. And so the best time to plant a tree is 20 years ago."

The little girl says, "Well, when is the second best time to plant a tree? " And the grandfather says, "Right now." Right now.

A people's greatness is not defined in times of ease. A people's greatness is defined in times of adversity. And we're facing our fair share of it.

Israelis are facing adversity, people in the United States are facing adversity, the people of this planet are facing tremendous adversity. And that's why there is no better time than now for us to dig deep. And from that depth to rise to our highest potential. In our ability to heal this world of ours, to heal this world of ours with our shared belief in the dignity of every individual, as Americans, as Israelis, to strengthen and advance our special relationship. Risking action on the truth that our tomorrows can be better than our todays, but only if we choose through our action to make it so.

Thank you very much. (Applause.)



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Health Care Press Conference

March 23rd, 2010

Anne Arundel Medical Center

Thank you all very much,... It's great to have the opportunity to talk about health care here at Anne Arundel Medical Center, one of the leading employers in this county. The Center puts 2,800 people to work in the highly important, high-potential health care sector,... reminding us of the strong correlation between health care and our goals for creating, saving, and protecting jobs.

Let me begin today by saying a word of thanks to President Obama for his leadership, and to Maryland's Congressional delegation, for pushing forward on reforms that have eluded our country since FDR called for extending what he called "the right to adequate medical care and the opportunity to achieve and enjoy good health" to every American.

We're proud as Marylanders to lead the nation in the ways we're implementing the federal Recovery & Reinvestment Act, and we want to be a national leader on implementing the federal health care reforms as well.

Today I'm signing an Executive Order that will create a Coordinating Council, chaired by Lt. Governor Brown and Secretary Colmers, so that we can indeed lead the way in leveraging this new law to help maintain fiscal responsibility, help our small businesses create and save jobs, and get health care coverage to more of our fellow citizens.

Health Care and Maryland's Hardworking Families

Because of the reforms we have already put in place in our State – things like the Maryland Health Insurance Partnership for small businesses and closing the prescription drug donut hole for our seniors – the reforms the President signed into law yesterday will save the State of Maryland more than one billion dollars over ten years,... helping us maintain fiscal responsibility.

These reforms will mean health care coverage for hundreds of thousands of our fellow citizens who currently are uninsured;

These reforms will mean that our fellow citizens won't be denied health care due to pre-existing conditions and they won't be dropped from their existing coverage just

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because they get sick;

These reforms will mean lower premiums for small businesses across our State and throughout our country, they will provide tens of billions of dollars in small business tax credits and protect our small businesses from sudden, arbitrary rate hikes; what's more:

These reforms will mean that Maryland taxpayers and small businesses will save on the hidden taxes of uncompensated care.

In other words, the new federal law will help us advance the priorities we share as Marylanders of strengthening and growing the ranks of an increasingly diverse and upwardly mobile middle class – including our family owned business and farms,... And, in tandem with our state level efforts on things like the Job Creation Tax Credit, UI reform, and our proposed Small Business Loan Guaranty Program, it will help us continue to create the conditions that help our businesses create and save jobs.

Conclusion

One of the great things about the people we're privileged to serve is that as Marylanders we don't make excuses, we make progress. And instead of waiting for this historic day, we've chosen these past three years to continue a tradition which dates back to the War of 1812, when the people of Maryland successfully defended the United States of America on our own, when our federal government was unable to step in:

Rather than waiting for Washington, we chose together to close the Medicare donut hole so Maryland seniors no longer have to choose between paying for groceries and paying for the prescription drugs that can save their lives;

Rather than waiting for Washington, we chose together to expand health care coverage to 161,000 of our fellow citizens, 78,500 of them children;

Rather than waiting for Washington, we chose together to offer assistance to small businesses to help them provide health insurance to more of their employees and their families;

And rather than waiting on Washington, we chose together to allow young adults up to age 25 stay on their parents' health care – which will increase to age 26 under the federal reforms.

At this time let me turn the floor over to the co-chair of the Coordinating Council, Lt. Governor Anthony Brown.



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Patriot Awards

March 30th, 2010

Annapolis, Maryland

I want to thank all of the families of those who we lost for the solemn honor of allowing me to join you today to pay tribute to your loved ones who gave the ultimate sacrifice for their communities, for their country.

And we also give our thanks to those of you who are here today who have answered the noble call and serving your fellow citizens in your country. The dedication and courage you show every day is critical to keeping our people safe. You are part of a noble, revolutionary history that continues here in Maryland – a history that is full of brave men and brave women who stood up and led the way, not in times that were easy but in times that were hard, in the face of adversity, no matter what the obstacles were that faced them.

Honoring 18 Men and Women of Courage

That brave revolutionary spirit was strong within the 18 men and women that we are honoring today – men and women who gave their lives to defend the public safety. For these courageous, selfless Marylanders, we feel a tremendous sense of gratitude, and also much grief and sorrow. Their time on this earth was shorter than it should have been, and it is so hard to make sense of our loss or lessen our pain. It has been said that what we have once enjoyed we can never lose for all that we love deeply becomes a part of us.

As we remember those brave men and women who have sacrificed themselves for the safety of their fellow citizens, we also remember the things that we loved about each of them. The ways that they made us laugh and rejoice, and of course, the incredible good that they brought to their friends and their families who needed them and the good that they brought to our world through the work of courageous service that they did every single day.

The poet Marge Piercy writes that “the pigeon cries for water to carry, and a person for work that is real.” For work that is real. For these 18 men and women that we are honoring here today, the work was as real as it gets.

And they knew how tough, and they knew how demanding the work would be. But instead of stepping aside or leaving the work to someone else, they stood up, they

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volunteered. They took on that grave and sacred duty of protecting their neighbors. And when they answered the call, they did not ask if the person in need was black or white, or rich or poor, or Jewish or Christian or Muslim. They simply asked, who needs me? And they answered that call.

For that noble service, we can never express enough gratitude. The 18 men and women we honor today were dedicated defenders of the greater good that we share as a community. Their work reminds all of us of our shared humanity and of the belief that we share that there is more that unites us than divides us.

Conclusion

To all of the families of these brave Marylanders that we've lost in the last year, on behalf of Lt. Gov. Brown, and really on behalf of all the citizens that they loved so much that they served, all of whom hope you feel their comfort here today in some small way.

The people of our state thank you for your sacrifice, for having the willingness and courage to come here today for one another, even when your loss and hurt are still so very, very fresh. We can never make that hurt go away, but I hope if only for a brief moment today that your burden might be lightened by the love and compassion that the people here, that the people throughout the state of Maryland, have for you, have for the brave people that we have lost.

The poet writes, "Let me not pray to be sheltered from dangers but to be fearless in the face of them. Let me not beg for the stilling of my pain, but for the heart to conquer it. Let me not crave in anxious fear to be saved, but hope for the patience to win my freedom." I thank all of you again for being here and for raising such beautiful people who have given their all in service to the rest of us. May God bless you and may God bless the United States of America.



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AME Baltimore Annual Conference

April 10th, 2010

Bethel AME, Baltimore, Maryland

I want to give honor to God for the beauty of this day, and the blessings in my life. I want to thank you, Reverend Dr. Frank Reid, so much for welcoming me to your beautiful church. It is a humbling honor to join you today, and to be a part of the AME Annual Conference.

I want to recognize a few of the many distinguished people here today: Presiding Prelate Bishop Adam J. Richardson; Episcopal Supervisor Mrs. Connie Speights Richardson; Presiding Elder Montague; Host Pastor, Reverend Dr. Ricky Spain; and all of the people of faith at the Baltimore Annual Conference, the oldest conference in the United States on the AME Church.

My six minutes are up, God bless you and have a good – (laughter). I wore my purple AME tie for mercy and indulgence today, knowing being raised Roman Catholic that politicians at the pulpit draw lightning. Amen.

I really do want to thank the AME Church, all the people of faith here and at home for what we we've done over these last four very difficult years. And sometimes we focus on the economic misery and the pain of our neighbors, as well we should and as well we must, because the suffering is great, the displacement is great, and the economic distress has not been greater since the so-called Great Depression. So we will get through this.

But I wanted to thank you for your work in pushing forward the work of the Census. That notion that every person in our country counts, there's no such thing as a spare American. We all need to be counted. So I thank you for that, number one.

But I thank you for something else as well. Our State passed some sweeping foreclosure prevention legislation a few years ago, trying to get ahead of the wave that we saw coming. Because of that work, because of the dollars we've invested in nonprofit housing counseling, we've actually been able to help more Marylanders avail themselves of modifications, particularly now that we have a new President of the United States who is standing up for the working people of our country.

But too often, those calls for help receive nothing but the hand from big mortgage servicing giants. So as we speak, the General Assembly is in session on legislation

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that the AME has been helping us push for mandatory mediation. That is to say, a new law that will not allow them not to pick up the phone when a family is calling. We believe, as a people, that if these big faceless mortgage servicing giants can pick up the phone to put a family into a home, they should have to pick up the phone before they throw a family out of their home.

So I thank you and hopefully that will pass soon. And every home we save is an important home.

Let me share just a couple thoughts with you. I don't know what it is about coming to Bethel that brings Thomas Aquinas up to mind, but as I was reading today, I came across this beautiful quote from Aquinas in a book by Thomas Merton called *The Ascent To Truth*, and I wanted to share it with you as a way of sort of framing who we are and, more importantly, where we're going.

And it's attributed to Aquinas, he said, "The burning fire of love is the source of all light and it is through the burning of that fire that we come to know the truth." That we come to know the truth.

Over these last four difficult years we have – through our actions, through our faith in one another, through our belief that tomorrow can be a better day, notwithstanding the economic adversity that we are facing, with God's grace and one another – we have made some tremendous strides.

Two of the clearest barometers on the progress for many people has to be public safety and public education. Despite the economic pain, when the latest numbers came out – the numbers that track violent crime in our State and every state and they're verified by the FBI – Bishop Richardson, these numbers show that we, together, have driven violent crime down to its lowest levels in the State of Maryland since the counting of these things began in this system in 1975. The lowest level since 1975.

What that means in terms of real human beings is that compared to four years ago, 111 fewer people were murdered in our State this year compared to the last year. So far this year in the State of Maryland, we have buried two children who died violent deaths. At the same time last year, seventeen.

Every life is important. There is no such thing as a spare American.

Our State – even with the adversity, even with the deficits, even with the revenue shortfalls, we hung together and made the investments necessary so that our State, for the first time in the midst of this recession, was named the number one public school system in the United States of America. (Applause.)

And that has happened two years in a row. And the undercurrent of that, less reported, is the fact that the historic achievement gap between wealthy children and poor children, we are closing that decisively and steadily every single year. We have doubled, over a four-year period of time, the number of African American students in the State of Maryland, who are actually scoring at college level on AP exams in high school. Doubled it in a four year period of time.

But there are many other things, Bishop Richardson, that are burning in that fire that are not noticed, but I know the AME has noticed them. They are those embers that

have allowed us to create a pathway for the restoration of voting rights for those that were captives and those that were prisoners.

It's our efforts, even before the President's courageous step in healthcare for all, you and I in these difficult times extended healthcare coverage to heal the sick to 141,000 people that did not have it three years ago.

And 78,500 of them are children, who had no choice in what their parents' eligibility might be. And that also included the dental benefit for poor children, so no child in our State ever has to die for an inability to go have a toothache looked at.

Also burning in that fire is this, that we will for the first time hit our minority business development goals as the State of Maryland, for the first time this year – for the first time.

I leave you with these final thoughts and it is this – that I don't think any of us really know what the future holds. But we do know that there are some things that are constant in this world. That burning fire of love is a constant in the belief we share in the dignity of every individual, that's a constant. Our belief in our own responsibility to advance the common good. That is a constant.

Our understanding that there is a unity of spirit and matter, so what we do in our own lifetimes does matter. That one person makes a difference. That each of us must try.

Those are the things that stoke that fire of love. Those are the things that are the source of all light. Those are the things that bring knowledge to this world, of a higher truth. The truth that we are all in this together. That every person counts. And that God wants and needs the partial victories.

Thank you very, very much and congratulations. (Applause.)



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Post – Session Bill Signing

April 13th, 2010

Annapolis, Maryland

Thank you all very much,... It's an honor to serve a great people and to do so with great people. And that begins with Lt. Governor Brown who worked very hard this session on a number of our most important priorities – including several of the bills we're signing today.

And of course I want to thank President Miller and Speaker Busch

Our focus continues to be on moving Maryland forward by creating jobs, protecting jobs and empowering small business, while protecting homeownership, and protecting our hardworking families.

Fiscal Responsibility

The great thing about the people we serve is that in times of great adversity, as Marylanders, we don't make excuses, we make progress. And progress in these tough times depends on two words: fiscal responsibility.

In four years, we have cut more state spending than during any four year period in our State's modern history – some \$5.6 billion – bringing state spending today below where it was four years ago;

We have strategically reduced the size of our State government, eliminating 4,200 positions;

We have passed four budgets that come in under spending affordability guidelines, and together we have chosen negative spending affordability growth for two years in a row;

We have maintained a 5% balance in our Rainy Day Fund so that we will continue to be one of only 7 states which defends a Triple A Bond rating, a seal of fiscal responsibility certified by all three major agencies.

And together we have made progress for jobs, progress for schools, progress for affordable college, progress for public safety, progress for our environment – not in spite of fiscal responsibility, but because of it.

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Jobs

To create jobs in our State: we passed the Job Creation Tax Credit to get our fellow citizens off the unemployment roles; and to empower small businesses, the backbone of our economy we reformed our UI system and created a Small Business Loan Guaranty to provide critical credit to companies that need it;

Our capital budget will support upwards of 20,000 construction jobs on top of the 20,000 jobs we've been able to create or save with federal Recovery and Reinvestment dollars. In addition, the Sustainable Communities Tax Credit that will create hundreds and eventually thousands of jobs across our State.

What's more, we've invested in our greatest asset for job creation and economic growth – our people – with a record investment in our #1 ranked, best-in-America public schools.

And we've chosen to advance Maryland's Innovation Economy,... investing in Stem Cell Research and the Biotechnology Tax Credit Program,...advancing cleaner, renewable energy and our emerging green economy.

Homeownership and Families

Building on the nation-leading reforms we passed two years ago to protect homeownership in our State, this year we passed legislation to finally put the breaks on the home-destroying machinery of foreclosures in our State.

And to move Maryland forward, we passed tough laws to protect our children from sexual predators.

Bill Signing

To build on the nation-leading progress we're making on things like Health-IT, and on the fiscally responsible budget we passed — today we're signing three significant pieces of legislation: the Maryland False Health Claims Act (which will crack down on waste, fraud and abuse, and allow the State to recoup \$20 million); along with two new laws that will believe will improve the quality of care for our families, our seniors and our children.

Lt. Governor Brown, did an outstanding job leading the way on these bills. I'd like to pass him the microphone to say a few words.



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Mayoral Portrait Unveiling

April 19th, 2010

City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland

Mayor Rawlings-Blake, thank you very, very much for your leadership, thank you for your friendship. Mrs. Rawlings, thank you very much for being here today. Stephanie and I were talking on the way in that had she not had a very important conversation with Pete, neither of us would have been here at this point. I really want to thank you for your leadership of this City and for continuing to lead us forward.

Joan Pratt, it was an honor to serve with you and this Board of Estimates during all the tough decisions we made together, and to be able to see the fruits of our labor in a City that's doing better. I enjoyed those years and I especially enjoyed our relationship, professional and friendly and collegial in every way.

Jack Young — Bernard Jack Young, Council President Young, and all my colleagues on the Baltimore City Council who knew me in my even more rough and tumble formative years and put up with me and taught me so much, thank you for being here.

Jeannie Davis, our City Hall Curator, thank you for the love and the care that you've taken with this building.

To Mayor D'Alesandro — Mayor, it is good to see you, sir. And also Ted Venetoulis. I would sit at this Board of Estimates making tough decisions and I would look up and young Tommy — you can't see it from where some of you sit — was always looking me in the eye. (Laughter.) And my final wish, on the last Board of Estimates, was that when I'm gone I want to be hung next to young Tommy. And so it looks like that day is here.

To my mom, Barbara O'Malley, and to my sister, Eileen. Brothers Peter and Paul are here. To my mom and my brothers and my sisters and my dad, thank you for everything that you've done to encourage me to do this important work.

To Joe Curran and Barbara Curran, a couple of the dearest people that I will ever know in my life, I have the good fortune to call my mother and father-in-law.

To Katie, love of my life, and to William, who represents here today Grace and Tara and Jack, thank you so very, very much for all the sacrifice that you've made for these years. I was thinking today of that time when on a sunny day like this we

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announced and Katie held up William, who was much smaller then. She said “take a good look at him, it will be the last time you see him for eight years.” (Laughter.) But, hey, we’ve kept it together, didn’t we, Will?

I also want to thank Senator McFadden and Curt Anderson, they both represent the House and the Senate delegations, for being here today.

I could go on for hours with just acknowledgments here. I tell you, looking at the faces, you are all the people that have formed me and served with me. Michael Enright, Peggy Watson, Jean Hitchcock and David Scott and Laurie Schwartz and Ed Gallagher, Ralph Tyler and all the people who have been part of this administration and have all gone on to other things.

To business leaders who are here, to people, as I say, that worked on the transition, you worked inside this hall. To Rick Berndt, Jay Brodie — and so many, many more.

And Michael Cryor and those of you that were involved in the Believe Campaign and those of you that were on the transition committees. I just thank you very, very much for being here.

And I thank you, Jorge Gonzalez, for the care that you put into this portrait. I really appreciate it. And Mary Carroll, because there are some things I can do and there are some things I can’t do and sitting is something I find very challenging. So Mary’s camera and Jorge’s eye led to this portrait that’s going to hang here in this room. “All That We Love Deeply Becomes a Part of Us”

I think this is an important room. What I always took away from this room is that the journey of a great city is much more than any one person, though every person is important. It’s more than any four year period, though every four year period is important. It’s more than any period in history.

It’s the journey that’s critical, it’s the journey that is needed. And it’s the journey that continues, only because we choose to make it continue. And to all of you that have played such a role, I thank you for what you’ve done for my City, the City that I love. It is written that “all that we love deeply becomes a part of us.” All that we love deeply becomes a part of us.

In addition to my family and my friends, I have come to love deeply the people of our City. I have loved them in their joy and in their grief. I have loved them in their victories and in their defeats. I have loved them in their kindness and I have loved them in their cruelty. And I have loved them in their worship and I have loved them in their hard work. I have loved them in their addiction and I have loved them in their recovery. I have loved them through the bright eyes of their children and I have loved them through the tears of their grandmothers. And I have loved them in their hopes and I have loved them in their despair.

And they have become a part of me. They have. The people of this City, this great City, that has never, ever surrendered.

Changing the human heart and changing the life of a great City “are not separate tasks but are as interconnected as the two beams of the cross,…” And the heart of that connection is the call to believe. To believe in ourselves, to believe in our neighbors, to believe that there is a sacred, numinous mystery at work in the soul of

every individual. The belief that one person can make a difference and that each of us must try. Belief that each one of us is needed, that there is more that unites us than divides us. And the belief that we're here to serve a loving God, by serving one another with love.

As I reflected back in trying to put these remarks together on that mix of forces that came together, that alchemy of forces of history and individual actions in the present that set about this important life saving, neighborhood saving, City-changing work of these seven years that we shared together – my mind and heart continued to return with gratitude and, I don't mind telling you, a real sense of awe – to the grace that allowed us to answer that call to believe. And to experience the strength that arose from the obedience to that call. "A strength that had a way of simplifying things which seemed impossible."

The Greatest City in America

I would not trade the work and the progress of those seven years with all of the difficulties and with all of the challenges, for all the wealth in this world. And not since 1814 has any man ever been blessed with such a strong and loving family, with such courageous friends, and with such strong and courageous neighbors as I had in the defense of our City during those seven years.

We are all in this together and our best days are still ahead of us in our City, because there's no such thing here as a spare American. In our City, where every person matters.

And that's why there will always be a title that resonates with great love deeply in my soul and it is the title of Citizen of Baltimore, the Greatest City in America.
(Applause.)



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Announcement of the Lowest Violent Crime Rate in Maryland Since 1975

May 10th, 2010

Prince George's County, Maryland

Thank you for hosting all of us here. It's gorgeous here in Prince George's County. I thank you all for being here.

County Executive Johnson, thank you so much for your leadership. Thank you for being in the arena; thank you for making the changes in leadership that allowed us to forge these partnerships and save lives and make Prince George's County a better and safer place for all.

We also today are gathered in front of the Police Memorial that stands behind us. This week, people throughout the county are honoring the service of sacrifice of law enforcement. I know just this year we lost Thomas P. Jensen, and Corporal Mark Gamble. It is a very humbling honor therefore to stand in front of the men and women of the Prince George's County Police Department who lay their lives on the line everyday and in order to make our neighborhoods safer. I think that there is no higher calling than being a police officer. I want to thank Chief Roberto Hylton, President Vince Canales, Vice President Dean Jones and all the Officers and command staff that are here today.

One of the most sacred duties that any of us have in elected office is to protect the public. One of the most powerful beliefs we share for all of the diversity of our State, is our belief in the dignity of every individual. Therefore, our quality of life, we know, is defined by the amount of public safety we have on our streets and in our neighborhoods.

That's why today's announcement is such a very positive one for us. In the toughest of times, together, we have forged a partnership between the men and women of State's Attorney Glen Ivey's office, the men and women of U.S. Attorney Rod Rosenstein's office, the men and women of law enforcement, men and women represented in state law enforcement by Colonel Sheraton, by Secretary Maynard, and by Secretary Devour.

The most important things we accomplish are only accomplished when we come together in partnership toward that shared goal of saving lives and that's why, as the

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County Executive said, it's great to be able to point to the reality of schools going up and crime coming down.

Lowest Violent Crime Rate Since 1975

I am very very pleased to be able to announce that thanks to the hard-won gains of officers of Prince George's County and every other county in Maryland, Maryland has reduced violent crime to its lowest rate since 1975.

There was a 5% reduction last year in violent crime. We reduced homicides 12%, and in the last three years, we achieved the steepest three year reduction in homicides since the 1970s.

Together with law enforcement – local, state, and federal – we drove down automobile theft nearly 23%. I especially want to thank Judge Nicols who has been a leader on this issue. In Prince Georges County to be able to reduce auto theft by more than 40% is a real big deal. So thank you.

Prince George's County is doing some remarkable things. Delivering life saving results, driving violent crime down to its lowest levels in 30 years (as the County Executive said); overall crime down to its lowest rate since 1975; auto theft down so dramatically,...

Crime Fighting Partnerships

None of this happens by chance, all of it happens by partnerships. And I wanted to outline some of the initiatives that we have underway. In the toughest of times we have actually been able to improve. And why is it? It's because of the things we are doing today and I just wanted to touch on a few of them:

One is the Violence Prevention Initiative, VPI. We are doing a much better job than we ever have to zero in on the most dangerous predators that are released back into our neighborhoods on parole and probation and then partnering with local law enforcement to put them back in jail the first time they violate the terms of their parole or probation, before they can murder again. That's been a huge success.

Secondly, we inherited a huge backlog of unanalyzed DNA samples and by working through that backlog and getting that information into the database, in 2009 we were able together to arrest 103 murderers, rapists, and other criminals who otherwise would still be walking our streets.

Thirdly, modern technology is allowing us to combine, law enforcement databases that used to be these isolated silos that you needed a separate pass code to access – or you needed to know someone to be able to get into them. We have combined all this information into our Public Safety Dashboard which connects more than 100 agencies – and we're receiving 25,000 to 40,000 hits per day.

Fourthly, we have been able to forward advanced technology tag readers to local law enforcement so they can identify a license plate – almost like a checker at a grocery store does – just by scanning it from afar, and they are able to immediately match that with the stolen autos that are in the central database.

Fifth, through the Capitol Area Regional Fugitive Task Force, we have posted over a

thousand warrants to help make our neighborhoods safer in the DC metropolitan area. I did say DC metropolitan because we are sharing more information now on both sides of the District and Maryland border. So if someone on a Maryland probation does something to violate them in DC then DC notifies us right away. That never ever happened before. That's happening now because of our partnerships.

And finally, before I turn it over to our U.S. Attorney, our Regional Gun Task Force. Our Regional Gun Task Force where state and local police, together, were able to seize 217 guns last year which produced 77 arrests for illegal trafficking of guns, to keep them out of the hands of the hit men and the drug enforcers.

Conclusion

All of us can see the day when our State will move out of the dubious distinction of being one of the ten most violent states in America. But we know if we continue to make progress our children will have hope of living in a state that is one of the top ten safest states.

I have the honor now to be able to introduce our U.S. Attorney for Maryland. He is a U.S. Attorney who has taken the power and authority granted to him by the Obama Administration to actually put the federal government in partnership with local and state law enforcement to take violent gun offenders off our streets. In the past, there was a lot of push back. A lot of U.S. Attorneys didn't like to take these cases federally, but we have a State Attorney who actually has the United States Attorney's Office on the side of neighborhood and public safety and has been using his prosecutorial authority to make our neighbors a safer Maryland so please welcome an invaluable partner, Rod Rosenstein.



Tags: [advance technology](#), [crime prevention](#), [law enforcement](#), [prince george's county](#), [violence prevention initiative](#)

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Montgomery County Bar Association Annual Meeting

May 14th, 2010

It is good to be home, and it's great to be with all of you. I thank you so much for your very kind welcome and for allowing me to be a part of this tremendously strong gathering here in Montgomery County, land of my bread and buttering. County Executive Leggett it's great to join you here.

I want to thank everyone with the Bar Association and the Foundation. Mr. Weaver, I'm sure you're very, very proud of your daughter and her message here today of being the change that all of us hope to see in this world. And I congratulate you and your whole family,... and President Patricia Weaver, congratulations to you on your ascendance.

Your county sends some really top-notch people to the General Assembly and I especially want to thank Delegate Kathleen Dumais, Delegate Brian Feldman and Senator Robert Garagiola. Next week, I'll be signing a bill sponsored by Delegate Dumais to support the Maryland Legal Services Corporation (Applause) which is so critically important for balancing the scales of justice, especially in civil cases, where we often come up short of that sense of justice I think we all aspire to as a people – including justice in foreclosure cases, where we continue to battle to save every home possible; putting families on a more equal footing with the big faceless mortgage company giants (which I'll come back to in a moment).

Again, it is a true honor to join with you and see so many friendly faces and familiar faces. As President Weaver mentioned, I grew up in a small log cabin not far from here (laughter). My mother still lives in this county. It's always special for me to be able to have the opportunity to come back. And I recall very vividly speaking to this group four years ago. It was very shortly after my father had passed away and the kindness that so many of you came up and expressed to me, I will never, ever forget. He really enjoyed practicing with all of you. Many of you who knew him kindly came by his wake. Many of you who had been in court on opposite sides of him came to make sure he was dead. (Laughter). But my dad, we talked about him as Atticus Finch. Just to show you the sort of impression that he made on his subjects – of the six of us, four of us became lawyers, because we wanted to be like our dad. We wanted to be able to go into the arena and stand up for people that maybe didn't have any other fighting chance except their hope that their lawyer would take their case as if it was the most important one he had ever handled.

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Connections

Leading off from President Weaver's remarks about being the change that we desire in this world, I wanted to talk to you about the connections of what all of us are doing in our strong State, going through tough times with the rest of the nation — indeed, the rest of the world.

I think that these thoughts of mine, as I share them with you, are not so much in order of priority as they are in order of proximity.

The sort of future that we prefer for our children and the justice to which we aspire, are very, very connected. The connection between public schools and jobs. The connection between improving public safety and improving our economy. The connection between making college education more affordable and, therefore, making Maryland more attractive to the high growth, innovative, creative sorts of employers than Montgomery County has been producing in such nation-leading numbers.

Forward with Montgomery County

Your County Executive is one of the most effective county executives I do believe in the entire United States of America. And he understands what an important job he has in leading this important county forward. (Applause.) Montgomery County takes its leadership responsibilities very seriously. And so does Ike Leggett. The way he has raised the bar in terms of life sciences, bio-tech, clean and green tech, information technology, cyber security is making a difference for this county and our State.

The immensity of the challenges which intimidate so many other people are the very things that the people of Montgomery County – with one of the highest levels of education attainment – actually embrace to create new opportunities for all of us.

There was great news about a week ago about how Rockville was named one of the top ten cities in America for new start-up companies. (Applause.)

Montgomery County illustrates why it is that we're making in the toughest of times record investments in public education, why in the toughest of times we've increased school construction dollars coming into Montgomery County by 70 percent. People might say, well, what does that have to do with the economy? It has everything to do with the economy. The quality of the education and the educational attainment of our children will determine the opportunities that their children have. And that's a fact that you always understood in Montgomery County.

I have some good news for you: our State, in the month of March, created more jobs than any other state in the country. (Applause.) 35,800 jobs — get this — is 20 percent of the new jobs created in the country.

And we need to keep creating jobs every month. Because as important as the battle against foreclosures is – because there's no place more powerful in our State than the family home – there's nothing more essential for keeping that home than a job.

So we have been very, very focused on doing everything we can to create jobs and save jobs.

We created in this legislative session a new Hiring Tax Credit for any company – large, medium or small – that hires a Marylander off of the unemployment rolls. And in order to start to prime the pumps of business lending on Main Street, now that Wall Street has been somewhat stabilized, we've created a Small Business Loan Guaranty fund that will leverage an additional \$6 for every dollar of the \$10 million that we put into it.

And we're looking forward to the new legislation President Obama proposed that will allow Federal dollars to come into that account to further get those credit markets circulating.

Patricia, you kindly mentioned our #1 school ranking. The first time our State has ever been named #1 school system in America. And that's a big, big deal. Two years in a row. (Applause.)

We're moving forward with a better balance between mass transit and roads, even in these tough times, with the Purple Line moving forward. (Applause.) I'm wearing my purple tie. (Laughter.)

I rattle off these things because our State can't move forward unless each of the counties is moving forward. And a strong Montgomery County means a stronger Maryland. We're all in this together.

I know in these last several years together we've had to do some very, very tough things. \$5.6 billion in cuts. The size of your state government is now smaller than it's been at any time since 1973. It's the smallest our state government has been in nearly 40 years. And yet we still retain a AAA Bond Rating, and we're one of only eight states in the country to do that. We still continue to make progress. And our own Eloise Foster, our budget secretary (her first initial is T, I say that stands for tough choice) – she happens to be from Montgomery County. So the Budget Secretary of the State of Maryland is from Montgomery County. No doubt one of the big parts of the reason why we've weathered this storm better than others. And we need to continue to move forward.

Forward for a More Just Future

When we talk about Maryland moving forward – you're in a vocation that understands that there is no such thing as progress without justice.

In getting to that more just future that I think all of us would choose to leave to our children, we absolutely do need each other. We are all connected to each other. We need to share an active participation of those in government, those in the judiciary, those in law enforcement. But we also need the active participation of every one of those people who hold what Justice Louis Brandeis called the most important office of all – and that is the title and the office of "citizen."

As One Maryland, we are working across sectors and using technology to connect with one another as no generation of Marylanders has ever had the opportunity to do before. Aligning our efforts, broadly sharing information, using our government – both at the State and local level – as a platform to harness the power of citizenship, the connectedness, the needed connections of all of us who are working for that better world.

Public Safety

A few examples of that I wanted to share with you when it comes to public safety:

It was a sad fact of the matter that just five years ago, your State that had more PHDs than any other state in the union, was also the fourth most violent State in America. And we're still far too violent, but we have been doing a much better job of fighting back against that unacceptably high level of violence and our unfortunate sad propensity to pretend that it happens to other people and not to people that we love and need.

We have driven violent crime down this year to its lowest level since 1975, thanks primarily to the courageous men and women who put on those uniforms and that badge and that gun and go out there. But many other people in other institutions have had a part in this as well. It did not happen by chance, it happened because of partnerships.

Partnerships like the new Violence Prevention Initiative, where our Parole and Probation agents actually focus their supervision on the most violent repeat offenders who are coming back out onto the streets and zeroing in on them, to put them back in jail the second they violate the terms of their parole or probation.

We've closed the backlog, secondly, of 24,000 unanalyzed DNA samples of known offenders, murderers, rapists and others. And last year, we were able to take 103 murders, rapists and other criminals off the street because of those cold case hits that might not have happened, had that new science and technology and initiative to clear out that backlog not taken place.

Thirdly, we put together about 18 or 20 disparate databases that can help lead to the solving of crimes. We put them in a Public Safety Dashboard that now gets 25,000 to 40,000 hits a day from local law enforcement running through persons of interest, known repeat offenders, to see where if someone is, for example, prohibited from owning a firearm, yet they're popping up on a log saying that they're buying ammunition at a place down the road. Law enforcement is able to make those connections now.

We're partnering with our judicial branch and law enforcement to crack down on auto theft. Amazing things are happening just across the border in Prince George's County: almost a 43 percent reduction in four years in auto thefts. And, of course, we know crime knows no borders.

And through our Regional Gun Task Force we put state and local police together – what a novel idea – and were able to seize 217 guns, and make 77 arrests for illegal trafficking.

All of which comes down to the bottom line of 111 fewer Marylanders died violent deaths last year, compared to four years ago.

Our Diversity is our Greatest Strength

This has been a big week for justice in our country with President Obama's nomination of Elena Kagan to the U.S. Supreme Court – and this comes on the heels of President Obama's nomination of another strong female legal person in our State, Sarah Bloom Raskin of Takoma Park, who has been our State Banking Commissioner. She was nominated by President Obama to serve on the Federal Reserve System's Board of Governors. That's a big deal, as Joe Biden would say.

She's been an outstanding Commissioner. (Applause.) She's done an outstanding job for us.

In our State, where our diversity is our greatest strength, we now have three women serving on our Court of Appeals. And it's been one of my great honors to be able to have appointed two of them.

It's also been my great honor to appoint a great judge, who also happens to be the first African-American woman ever appointed to Montgomery County Circuit Court, Sharon Burrell, who is doing an outstanding job. (Applause.) And she's going to running on that terrific ticket with Judge Callahan, Judge Quirk, Judge Salant, Judge Jordan and Judge McCally.

All in all, we have been able to greatly increase the number of women serving on the judiciary and they're all top quality, top notch people. And that's true with regard to diversity, particularly where African Americans are concerned.

And that strength that is our diversity is a very important thing for us never, ever to take for granted in our State.

This year, by the way, our State will hit for the very first time our 25 percent goal by minority business inclusion, our MBE law. We've had a 25 percent goal forever, but this will be the first year that we've ever hit it.

Protecting Homeownership

Let me wrap up by just thanking all of you who have taken part in the effort to preserve as many homes as we can in our State from the plague of foreclosure. Your efforts, led by Judge Bell, the 1,025 of you and your colleagues that have given pro bono hours, cannot be underestimated. If you look at the sort of dashboard that shows the progression of foreclosures, the three events — whether they're notices of default, lender purchases, and sales — you'll see that in our State for the last four months, they've all been going in the right direction. That is down. We still have a long way to go, but I encourage all of you that have been involved in that to stay involved.

We passed legislation a couple years ago that the Washington Post said was some of the most sweeping foreclosure prevention legislation in the country. But it wasn't enough. So this year we created a mandatory right of mediation. Our rationale being that if a big mortgage services company can pick up the phone to put a family into a home, they sure as hell can pick up the phone before they can throw one out. And so that gives families the ability to bring these giants to the table in mandatory mediation. (Applause.)

Conclusion

Again, I thank you all so much for giving me the opportunity to join you here.

Along the line of the connection between justice and a better future, I leave you with two quotes that I carry around in my head that I think are particularly relevant right now.

These two gentlemen, Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy lived in a turbulent time in our country's history when a lot of change was afoot and I think there's a lot of wisdom that resonates and echoes from those days.

Dr. King said that “the arc of [history] bends towards justice.”

And Robert Kennedy said that “the future is not a gift: it’s an achievement.”

It’s one that in our One Maryland we have the ability to pursue, united by our belief in the dignity of every individual. United in our belief in our own responsibilities to be that change, to advance the greater good. United by our understanding that there is a unity to spirit and matter, that what we do in our own lifetimes does matter. And that God wants even our partial victories.

Thank you, Montgomery County Bar for fighting for justice and fighting for the better future we want to give our kids. (Applause.)



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Interfaith Breakfast

May 20th, 2010

Thank you all. Thanks very, very much. Dr. Richter, thank you for that wonderful and humbling introduction. I think it's a continuing sign of God's grace in this world and the goodness of the people that we call our neighbors that Maryland continues to make progress, any progress, given what we're up against.

And I really thank you also for being such a great neighbor to my family and to me as we live in some of the nicest government housing in Maryland. (Laughter.)

It is true that I go to mass at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, but when I wake up in the morning I pray to St. Anne's. (Laughter.) That's a fact.

It is great to be with all of you, and thank you Raghid Shourbaji and Reverend Dr. Browning gave us some great material today, didn't he? If nothing else has come of this breakfast, you have some good material for this Sunday, don't you? I'll remember – what I take away, Dr. Browning, is romance without finances is a nuisance. (Laughter and applause.)

And to all our speakers today, including Lieutenant Governor Anthony Brown. The highest ranking elected official in the United States of America is your Lieutenant Governor – the highest ranking elected official to have served a tour of duty in Iraq. And, so, Anthony, thank you for everything that you do. (Applause.)

Secretary Skinner, for fighting this fight, against foreclosure – it looks like we hit our peak about five months ago and we're coming down from that mountain of pain. And I do want to focus my short time with you on that foreclosure bill that we'll be signing shortly today that so many of you helped us pass.

And to our emcee, Dr. Anderson, thank you. And to Mr. Quentin Lynton and Desiree Hill, thank you for the great music. Ms. Hill, we try, as you've now betrayed, we try only to hire people with musical backgrounds. (Laughter and applause.) In these times you've got to have some music in you, because you've got to keep moving forward.

And Carrie Hill, good to see you today and thank you to the collective banking and everything that you are doing to help us save every home possible.

I like the themes that are coming out today and I'm going to use them, not just this Sunday, but throughout this long, hot summer. I like the notion of "praction" – it's not

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enough to have prayer, you have to have action. And I also like the idea that love requires more. And, indeed, that's what encourages all of us through these difficult times. You know, leadership is important at any time, but leadership is critically important when times are tough and people are hurting and when a response to a phone call or a nonresponse is the difference between whether a family is put out on the curb or whether they're not.

So I have some quotes that fall under ideas of praction, and love requires more, that I want to share with you that just kind of came to me as I was listening to the prior speakers.

"The arc of history bends towards justice." Of course, Dr. King. This one from Robert Kennedy: "The future is not a gift, it is an achievement."

St. Francis of Assisi: "Preach the gospel at all times and when necessary, use words." This one from Irish singer Luka Bloom: "Everything is possible in God's time, but nothing is for sure."

And one that, if they were shoes, I'd have them worn out by now – the words of St. Ignatius, who said, "Lord, teach me to be generous, to serve as you deserve, to give and not heed the cost, to fight and not heed the wounds, to toil and not seek for rest, to labor and ask no reward, save to know that I do your will."

And this one from John 17:20, "I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one."

There's nothing more powerful in this world, I think, no more powerful place in this world, than a family's home. And there's nothing more essential for keeping that home than a job. And so during these difficult times, we fight for the dignity of every human being, we fight for the most important place in this world and we fight for that definition of dignity, which is a job, and an ability to give your children a better life than the one that our parents gave us.

And we have a – the Lieutenant Governor went through a pretty impressive list of the sorts of praction and love requiring more, reducing violent crime to its lowest level since 1975. There are about 111 people in this room today. That's how many fewer people died violent deaths last year, compared to four years ago.

So far this year, six children have died violent deaths. Last year at this same date, 22.

Every life is important, every life matters. 165,000 people now have health care. Not another state in the union has been extending health care benefits, rather than cutting them. These are things we do as a people.

And similarly, on the job front I have some encouraging news for you. We've been doing a number of things. I know it's fashionable to say the government doesn't work, the government can't do anything, but the truth is last March — this most recent March, rather — your State created more jobs than any other state in the union. (Applause.)

That was the first month of positive job creation that we've had in a long time. But the things that we're doing are all part of the equation and each one of those actions

is needed – the 5,700 jobs coming to the Port of Baltimore because of public-private partnership; the new cyber command that's coming to Fort Meade and everything that that entails.

April was our second positive month in a row of positive job creation. So we want to string together positive months every month. And that really is what's going to get us out of this recession. And, frankly, I think because of your good work Maryland is going to lead all states out of this recession.

And that's what we do. A great thing about the people that we call our neighbors is that in times of adversity we don't make excuses, we make progress and that's how we get to better times.

This housing foreclosure crisis has really delivered quite a body blow, hasn't it, to the strength of the middle-class, to the dignity of families. I get so many sad letters, as I know you do, as well. Or people coming up and telling you after services, just trying to get some faceless giant mortgage service company in Topeka or who knows where to pick up the phone before they put the family out of their home.

Whenever one mom or dad has to look their child in the eyes and say the mortgage company says we have to move – I mean, that does affect all of us. And whether we feel it or not, we should. It affects all of us, it affects everything we're trying to do, this journey of a great people.

And so that's why we were – we passed some of the most leading foreclosure prevention legislation about two years ago. I hesitate to think where that mountain would be if we had not done that.

But it wasn't enough, because many of you in your own counseling agencies came back to us and as a people we started putting – I think annually about almost \$3 million or \$2.6

into nonprofit housing counselors. We created these mortgage – what do we call them – used to be loan originators, I think now they're mitigation originators, trying to get these mortgage service companies on the phone. And so many people came back and said we can't even get them to pick up the phone. You pay us all day and, you know what, we spend seven out of eight hours on hold.

So we believe that if a big mortgage servicer can pick up the phone to put a family into a home, they should have to pick up the phone before they can throw a family out of a home. (Applause.)

So with your help now we are going to be signing in 24 short minutes – we are going to be signing the mandatory mediation bill, which passed the House and the Senate into law, which means that any family in Maryland, when those guys aren't picking up the phone, can demand that there be a mediation, conducted by the Office of Administrative Hearings. We put a fee on the big mortgage servicers so that they're the ones that pay for this, rather than the family who is already having financial problems. And to bring them to the table.

And I absolutely believe there are a couple of other states where they've done this. I think most notably Connecticut and South Carolina.

So now we hope to sign into this law this right of a mandatory mediation, so that any

family can insist that these guys come to the table. Will it save every house? No, it won't save every house. There's a lot of us – all of us who are probably living beyond our means these last several years and we've got to make a cultural transformation and adjustment ourselves, even as our economy transforms to embrace what's important and a style of living that's more sustainable.

But we have battled for every house and we've been there every step of the way, too. It would be a lot worse had it not been for your efforts and it's going to get a lot better, because of your efforts.

This is one of those pieces of legislation that actually passed with some pretty substantial bipartisan support. When even the banking industry comes to the table and say let's make a deal, you know that we are One Maryland and we're able to bring people together around this crisis.

The HOPE Network has counseled nearly 40,000 people. And we need your help getting the word out on this mandatory mediation, because the loss of a home for a parent, for a breadwinner, for a mom or dad is – it can be such a source of shame that many of the people that lose their homes never talk to you or to me or to anybody. They kind of – they suck it up and they walk away. And they're ashamed to talk about it.

I thank you all so much – and, Ms. Maun, thank you for all the churches that you have been getting outside of your church by going around with these – the brochures. I really need your help reaching out and letting people know about this right to mandatory mediation. I believe the start date on this bill is July 1 – July 1st. Within the next few weeks now we're ramping up at the Office of Administrative Hearings in order to be able to handle this. But I need your help getting out the word on this.

Judge Bell has been terrific. He recruited about 1,000 lawyers to pro bono, take these cases. (Applause.)

Pastor Wilson was asking me how we get in touch or become part of this network – I mean, Ray is here, which is part of the reason that we're having this breakfast. So, please, if you haven't done any outreach, if you perhaps would like to do something at your church, you know, after services and, you know, go wherever the social happens and the coffee. And we can bring people there and make this happen.

So Ray Skinner is the person I always call or that I send letters to when people are in danger of losing their home.

There's a hotline number which is 877 – and this, I assume, in the material that we're giving out in the hall – it's 877-462-7555, a number, sadly, I've memorized. And there's also the www.mdhope.org. That's mdhope.org.

So let me conclude by again saying thank you for the progress that you made together these last several years. It would be remarkable in easy times. The fact that we're doing such important and meaningful things on education, four years in a row without an increase in college tuition, dental benefits for poor kids, so that no child ever has to die for lack of an ability to get a toothache seen.

These are all things that define a great people and a great State. Along with efforts that sometimes that fall short. I know that many of you were there in that noble and courageous battle to repeal the death penalty in Maryland. And we might not have succeeded, but you know what, we saved a lot of lives in the meantime anyway because of the violent crime reduction that you and courageous police officers have been effecting.

We've set a goal to eradicate childhood hunger by 2015 and we can do it. And the great thing is, it doesn't require more money, it requires more connection. It requires more oneness, more awareness of where the children are who go to bed hungry, go to school hungry, have to survive an entire summer without an ability to go get the meal that they had depended on when they were in school.

The restoration of voting rights for people getting out of prison and so many other things. All of this defines who we are as a State. You know, we choose to work hand in hand because we know, we believe, that there is more that unites us than divides us. That every individual is needed and loved and important and that we all share a responsibility to advance the greater good.

And those are really the most important things that get us through the dark times, because they're the things that come from the source of all light.

And I thank you all so very, very much for giving me the privilege to be able to work alongside of you to serve such a great people at such an important and challenging time. Thank you. (Applause.)



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Tags: [bill signing](#), [families](#), [HOPE network](#), [mediation bill](#), [mortgage servicer](#)

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Bill Signing Ceremony

May 20th, 2010

Annapolis, Maryland

(As Prepared)

Thank you all very much,... I especially want to thank President Miller and Speaker Busch.

And thank you Lt. Governor Brown. Anthony is a great champion for veterans issues in our Administration, and in a moment I'll be signing a package of bills to support our veterans, including new reforms to establish a procurement preference for businesses owned by veterans. Senator Peters and Delegate James were outstanding partners in this legislation.

I also want to say a special thank you to a group of outstanding public servants who are with us. Could the operating and capital budget staffs with the Department of Management and Budget all stand? Let's give a big round of applause to some of the unsung heroes of our state government.

The decisions that have allowed us to reduce \$5.6 billion in spending over four years – more than any four year period in our State's history – have not been easy decisions. But in times of great adversity as Marylanders we don't make excuses, we make progress.

Our goals for this session, and our overriding mission from the first days of our Administration are to create jobs, to save jobs, to protect homeownership, and to strengthen and grow the ranks of an increasingly diverse and upwardly mobile middle class, including our family owned businesses and farms. And that's why we've set big goals for improving public safety and public education in every part of our state, and for expanding opportunity: the opportunity to learn, to earn, and to enjoy the health of the people we love and of our land, our water, and our air.

Because of the tough choices we're making together, we're better positioned than other states to rebound stronger and sooner. But we still have more work to do,...more work to do so that we can build upon the progress we made in March when we created 35,800 jobs, more than any other state,... more work to do so that we can save more homes and protect more families.

Releases

As Marylanders, we're united by our belief in the dignity of every individual, and our understanding that there is no such thing as a spare Marylander. Because of these values that we share, we know that there is no place more powerful than a family home.

A couple years ago, together we passed what the Washington Post called some of the most sweeping foreclosure prevention reforms in America. And we have a number of nation-leading initiatives underway to stem this crisis. To date, our HOPE network has provided counseling to nearly 40,000 Marylanders.

But the loss of even one home impacts our entire state, and the tough reality is that today, too many moms and dads in Maryland have to look their kids in the eye and tell them "the bank said we have to move."

To bolster our counter-attack against the relentless, grinding, home-destroying machinery of the national foreclosure epidemic, in a moment I'll sign new reforms to put families on equal footing with what are often nameless, faceless giants. Reforms that will force mortgage companies to come to the settlement table before they can throw another family out of their home.

There are a number of people I'd like to thank for their work on making this a reality: Delegate McIntosh, Delegate Nieman, and Senator Frosh, Judge Tom Dewberry, Ann Norton and everyone with St. Ambrose Housing Aid Center, Kathleen Skullney and everyone with the Legal Aid Society, Robert Strupp and everyone with the Community Law Center, the Maryland Bankers Association for their support, Congressman Cummings, Secretary Sanchez and Secretary Skinner.

There is no government program more empowering for a family than a job. It is the single, most effective tool for helping a family keep their home.

The Sustainable Communities Tax Credit which I will sign in a few moments is projected to create hundreds of jobs in the near term and thousands down the road. This new law will be a win for jobs, a win for our communities, and a win for our emerging green sector. I would like to thank: Delegate Hixson, Delegate McIntosh, Delegate Lafferty, Senator Ulysses Currie, Senator Robey, Jon Laria and the members of our Task Force on the Future for Growth and Development, Don Fry and the coalition of businesses who worked so hard to get this bill passed, Dru Schmidt Perkins and everyone with 1000 Friends of Maryland, everyone with Preservation Maryland, Rodney Little, Secretary Hall, Deputy Secretary Matt Power, Secretary Skinner, and Assistant Secretary Carol Gilbert.

We are working on a number of fronts to advance cleaner, renewable energy and I'd like to thank Delegates Rosenberg and Malone and Senators DeGrange and Raskin for their work on passing a tax credit for the purchase of plug-in cars As well as Senators Garagiola and Middleton and Delegates Hecht and McHale for their work on the bill I'll be signing to double our solar energy goals for the next six years.

Today, we are passing several pieces of legislation to protect our fellow citizens with developmental disabilities, including new reforms which, for the first time put into law rate increases for our dedicated DDA and mental health services community providers. This is long-overdue, and recognizes the important services they provide and the lives they touch. Thank you Senator Middleton and Delegate Costa.

As I close, I want to mentioned one other bill – new reforms to protect the collective bargaining rights of childcare workers, our fellow citizens who make such a difference in the lives of our kids. Thank you Delegate Davis and Senator Middleton for your leadership to make this a reality.

As a country and as a State, we are by no means out of the woods yet. But we are in better position than other states to recover stronger and sooner and that's because as One Maryland we continue to make tough choices in tough times – tough choices that are moving our State forward, together.



Tags: [bill signing](#), [homeownership](#), [jobs](#), [renewable energy](#), [Sustainable Communities Tax Credit](#), [veterans](#)

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The State of Tech in the I-270 Corridor

June 1st, 2010

Rockville, Maryland

(As Prepared)

Thank you President Mote, it's great to join you here. I had the opportunity to join with President Mote last week to break ground on the new Physical Sciences complex at the University of Maryland – which will be one of the leading facilities of its kind in the world.

Norm Augustine – thank you for everything you continue to do for our State.

I also want to thank everyone from Bisnow for organizing today's event, and today's panelists, David Mott, Darryll Pines, Tom School, Todd Gibby, Renee Winsky, Martha Connelly, and moderators Jonathan Redgrave and Craig Hunter.

And thanks to all of you. In big ways and in small ways you represent the future of job creation and economic growth in our State. We need you now more than ever.

Introduction

It's great to join you here in Rockville – one of America's 10 best cities for start-ups, so says Bloomberg News. I always enjoy coming home here – land of my bread and buttering. I grew up in a small log cabin not far from here and my mother still lives in this county.

Our mission to move Maryland forward in these difficult times is: to create jobs, to retain jobs, and to improve the conditions that allow our businesses large and small to create and save jobs, and strengthen and grow our middle class.

This I-270 technology corridor is central to our ability to unleash the job-creating, growth sustaining potential of Maryland's Innovation Economy.

I had the opportunity a few months ago to attend the opening of Lockheed Martin's NexGen cyber security facility, and this region is increasingly becoming a high-technology hub, with more than 35,000 people working in sectors like cyber security, telecom, and IT.

And of course, this corridor – “DNA Alley” – continues to be a global leader in the life

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sciences.

I wanted to share a few words with you today about our economy and our continuing vision for advancing the life sciences here in Montgomery County, and throughout our State.

And I want to talk with you about that critically important tool for unlocking the job-creating potential of Innovation: venture capital.

Maryland's Economy

We still have a lot of work ahead of us, but we're starting to turn the corner in Maryland. And I want to share some good news: thanks to the hard work and perseverance of businesses and workers in this corridor and throughout our State, we have created more than 36,000 jobs since February.

More good news: our unemployment rate decreased last month for the first time since December of 2007. It's now 24% lower than the national rate.

If you consider that we are one of only eight states which defends a Triple A bond rating – a seal of fiscal responsibility certified by all three rating agencies, and if you consider that for the second year in a row, Education Week Magazine has said that we have the #1 best public school system in the United States of America, it is fair to say that compared to virtually any State in America, we in Maryland are in better shape to recover stronger and sooner.

But it won't happen automatically. We can only continue to move forward, if we continue to make the tough, but right choices.

We have chosen in tough times to reduce state spending by \$5.6 billion – more than any four-year period in our State's history.

And at the same time we are choosing to move forward by investing in job-creating tools like the Biotech Tax Credit, which we're increasing to \$8 million so we can help emerging bio companies create and save jobs and grow our economy.

In addition, to move our State forward, we created a Hiring Tax Credit to help businesses both large and small put Marylanders back to work.

And to prime the pump of small business lending we've created a Small Business Loan Guaranty fund – which has already provided \$40 million to Maryland small businesses this fiscal year. Along with fellow governors in 28 states, we're working with the Obama Administration on federal action – and we're supportive of the Administration's \$2 billion legislative proposal which has the potential to unlock hundreds of millions of private sector lending here in Maryland.

Our efforts to create and save jobs can only be successful if we continue to invest in our greatest assets: the talents, skills, creativity, and ingenuity of our people. And so to move our State forward, we're making record investments in our public schools – including a more than 70% increase in school construction dollars coming into Montgomery County.

What's more, we're putting a renewed emphasis on reinvigorating STEM education in Maryland – science, technology, engineering and math – these disciplines for

which American students are falling behind our global counterparts, but for which we must excel to reach our highest, job creating potential.

And we've chosen – alone among the fifty states – to freeze in-state tuition at our colleges and universities for four years in a row.

Announcing *Invest*Maryland

One of the many effects of the national recession is the drying up of venture capital – and that's something we are determined to counter. It will come as a shock to no one in this room our life sciences sector saw a 26% decrease in venture dollars during the first quarter of this year.

Our State ranks first among states in federal research and development dollars per capita, and second in the total amount we receive annually. It must be our goal to convert more of these dollars into jobs and economic opportunity. Venture capital, as we all know, is a key ingredient.

And so today we're announcing an administrative and legislative initiative we call InvestMaryland, aimed at creating a public-private partnership to fuel venture capital investment in our Innovation Economy, such as Maryland bioscience companies.

We believe this initiative can spur the creation of thousands of jobs and secure \$100 million in venture capital to unlock hundreds of millions and perhaps billions in economic activity.

How will it work? Insurance companies will be eligible for state issued tax credits and in turn they would invest dollars today in Maryland's venture infrastructure. These credits will be deferred until 2015. A minimum of half these investments will flow into the Maryland Venture Fund. The balance will flow into Maryland based venture capital firms for the purposes of getting critical capital to Maryland businesses so they can create jobs and advance innovation in fields like the biosciences.

And we will target a percentage of the funds for investments in women and minority owned businesses – continuing the progress we're making in a year in which we're on the verge of reaching – for the first time in Maryland's history – our goal of awarding 25% of state contracts to minority owned firms.

Bioscience & Maryland's Innovation Economy

All of this matters, because job-creating progress depends on our ability to advance innovation. The discoveries, technologies and innovation that are being advanced every day in laboratories, universities, and companies here and throughout our State, hold the promise and potential to remake our economy and in a broader sense, our world, to revolutionize the way we feed, fuel, and heal our planet.

It's one of the great ironies of our times that the very immensity of the challenges we face are driving innovation in every sphere of education, technology, and life-sciences – endeavors that all of us are able to rightly count among Maryland's greatest competitive economic strengths, particularly in this corridor.

Before I close, I wanted to share a few thoughts on the life sciences. As we would

all agree, Maryland is positioned well for expanding our global leadership and competitiveness. In fact, the Milken Institute says that we're one of the two best positioned states for leveraging our assets for economic growth.

The raw materials are all here in this corridor and throughout our State: the human resources, the business resources, the academic resources, and the federal resources. We are home to some of the world's leading institutions of science, discovery and higher learning, including nearly all the major federal research and regulatory agencies that are so critically important for the development of new drugs and new therapies.

And what's more, we have one of America's most highly skilled workforces, including the highest concentration of Ph.D. scientists and engineers in America – a result of the choices we're making together to invest in our #1 ranked public schools and in higher ed.

As you may know, this I-270 corridor is one of the largest bioscience clusters in the nation, perhaps in the world. It is home to about half of our State's bioscience companies and home to federal facilities like the National Institutes of Health, and the Food and Drug Administration – which is the gateway to the largest R&D market in the world. We are working with both these federal facilities and others in this corridor and throughout our State, to create more opportunities for job creating partnerships with Maryland businesses.

To leverage our assets in I-270 and beyond, we are, through our BioMaryland 2020 initiative, making a 10-year, \$1.3 billion state investment in the life sciences, and over the past two years we have invested or approved roughly \$100 million – and that's in addition to the \$70 million in investments we're making in science and technology related infrastructure at our universities and community colleges.

I mentioned the Biotech Tax Credit a few moments ago, and we recently extended our R&D tax credit for another decade. If you also consider the nearly \$70 million we're investing in Stem Cell research – we have a clear commitment to investing in the job-creating, life-saving promise of the life sciences.

Conclusion

I leave you today with the words of the poet Seamus Heaney:

*So hope for a great-sea-change
On the far side of revenge
Believe that a farther shore
Is reachable from here
Believe in miracles
And cures and healing wells.*

That farther shore is reachable – but only if we continue to make the tough decisions together that move Maryland forward. The great thing about the people of our State is that in times of adversity we don't make excuses, we make progress.

And by continuing to make the investments and choices that advance our Innovation Economy we can continue to make the job-creating progress that will allow us to remake our economy, and our world.



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Prince George's County Chamber of Commerce

June 4th, 2010

Bowie, MD

(As Delivered)

Rhonda, thank you very much. Great to be with all of you in Gorgeous Prince George's County! I thank our hosts here for this beautiful session here at the country club. I want to thank Rhonda Slade for her kind introduction. And also Denise Staples and all of the staff from the Chamber, and Tom Graham, CEO of Pepco. Tom was kind enough to sponsor the Prince George's kickoff of MBE University in December! Secretary Jenkins remembers that fondly.

It's wonderful to be here in Gorgeous Prince George's County—one of the most dynamic and forward-leaning counties in all the United States of America. A county where people are united by their belief in the dignity of every individual, by their understanding that each of us makes a difference, that each of us must try, and also by their belief that our diversity is our strength, and that we're all in this together.

This is a great county, and it is at the center of so much of the progress that defines our state, a state that excels in the toughest of times. It is the backbone of our state's economy and potential for creating jobs, driving innovation, putting people back to work. Prince George's County today is not only being visited by your humble Governor, but is also being visited by the President of the United States as he comes to Hyattsville today, for an announcement about the latest job numbers, which came out in May. Which are going to be—positive job creation! I thought you'd be glad to hear that.

Because of our shared efforts to move Maryland forward over four years, we've been able—I know that there's a person here from Prince George's County schools—the business of Maryland is business. Quality of life is at the center of our ability to create sustainable profits, and be able to create what we hope will be a stronger and ever growing middle class. And I think two things define quality of life—one of them is public safety, and safety in our neighborhoods—and the other one is the quality of education we're able to give to our children and the next generation.

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Over these last four really difficult years, all of you have had to make difficult decisions as business people, as CEOs. As your trustee over this corporation known as the State of Maryland, we've had to make a lot of tough decisions as well. But even with that, we have protected record investments in public education. In fact, this year, even with a state budget that's been reduced to its smallest size on a per capita basis that it's been since 1973, even with \$5.6 billion in cuts over these last four years—still this was a record amount of investment in public education from the State to the various counties in Maryland. And our kids are not letting us down. Over four years, here in Prince George's County, we've seen an increase in the number of students taking advanced placement exams, a 140% increase. And 50% more county students are passing, with scores at the highest level, 3, 4, or 5.

At the beginning of last month, I had occasion to be standing alongside the men and women who put on that uniform on every day, put on a gun and a badge and go out and lay their lives on the line for the rest of us. The foundation of any great community is public safety. And Prince George's County's Police Department, county government, the neighbors, really made some strides that are leading the state in terms of reducing violent crime and reducing auto thefts. We've been able together, here in Prince George's County, to drive violent crime down to its lowest rate since 1984. We've also been able to deliver life-saving results of reducing overall crime to its lowest level since 1975, and auto thefts are at their lowest rate that they've been since 1985 also. Committed work with partnerships, with new technology like the tag readers being forwarded into the hands of local law enforcement.

The other area where Prince George's County helps and really leads our state forward, is in realizing the tremendous economic potential that is our diversity—leveraging that potential, making the most of that potential, which I believe is one of the greatest strengths we have as a State. We are on pace—thanks to Secretary Jenkins' good work—we are on pace to actually be the first administration in history to actually hit our 25% MBE goal. We won't have that goal—people like Parren Mitchell and other pioneering leaders held us to that goal—it's the highest MBE goal in the country. But we had never hit it! Well, this year, even as the rest of the budget contracted, we actually were able to increase MBE dollars from \$833 million to about \$1.2 billion—am I right? \$1.3 billion...

But within that 25% has been, even in these four years with a contracted state budget, has been an 80% increase in dollars invested with African-American firms in our state. One of the great things about the people of our State, is that in times of adversity, we don't make excuses, we make progress. As Marylanders we move forward, not back. So we move forward and not back to improve public safety, yes, even in tough times. In fact, maybe it's more important in tough times. We move forward, not back to improve the quality of the education that we're able to pass to the next generation. We move forward, not back, to hit our MBE goals—particularly because these are tough times.

And our top focus continues to be, each and every day, doing everything we can to create jobs, to save jobs, to improve the conditions and quality of life that allow our businesses—large, small, family-owned and publicly traded—to be able to create jobs. Speaking of creating jobs, I want to welcome Marshall Bays of Ackerman Security to the great State of Maryland. There's sixteen in your office, right now,

Dave? Huge in Atlanta, private security firm. Sixteen here and we know it will grow to another 1600, right quick. And so we welcome you here to our State.

Maryland's Economy

We don't make excuses we make progress. And I wanted to just touch on just a few of the things... Sometimes one of the unfortunate aspects of our character is that as Marylanders we sometimes suffer from a pathological modesty, don't we? I mean, we know we're good. If we hear that we rank second in some defining category, we nod and then ask our wives, who's number one? And yet at the same time, we don't tell our story, we don't promote our story perhaps as much as we should. And so I just wanted to lay out a few facts which can be stubborn but sometimes hopeful things, and then we'll open it up to some questions or answers—and I hope you have some answers. I'm really looking for answers. I don't know how this next chapter comes out. In fact, watching the news between the oil spill and the Euro, we were having a little too much excitement over the last couple weeks. I'd like to see things settle down into a nice, steady upward path.

But I want to share just a few things with you. Because of the choices we've made together, your state is weathering this national economic downturn far better than virtually any other state in the Union. And that's something that is little comfort to a Mom or Dad who spend their whole day fighting the wolves of foreclosure away from the front door, or going to work and finding out that there is no more job at their work. I know that is little comfort, and we still have a lot of work to do. But if you compare us to virtually any other state in the Union, we are fair and far better because of the tough choices we've made to protect our quality of life, to move forward and not back.

We have held onto our job base, better than all but about four other states in the country, over these last two really difficult, recessionary years—recessionary years that would have been the second Great Depression had the president not acted as affirmatively as he did to stave it off. Recently, in fact just the other day, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce ranked Maryland fourth among the countries most enterprise-friendly states, because of our assets, our innovative economy, because of our creative class, because of our ability to create the new jobs, the knowledge-based jobs of the future. Our unemployment rate actually decreased in April, and that was the first decrease in unemployment that we had seen since December 2007—sounds like an awfully long time ago, doesn't it? It is now 24% lower than the national rate.

We also are one of only 7 or 8 states in the country, despite all the cuts, and all the belt-tightening, and all those things that your state government has had to do as businesses have had to do over the last few years, we are one of only seven or eight states in the country that has a triple-A bond rating – a seal of approval and fiscal responsibility that's certified by all three of the major rating agencies.

And for the second year in a row, and for the first time ever, Education Week magazine ranked your state's public school system as the best in the nation—not number two, not number three, number one, and number one two years in a row, even in the face of these difficult times.

And I have some more good news to share with you. Thanks to the hard work and

perseverance of businesses and workers here in Prince George's County and throughout our state, since February we have actually had two months in a row of positive job creation. So that is net job creation, positive job gains of 36,000 jobs gained in the State of Maryland over these last two months. In fact when the March numbers initially came out, and little Maryland—2% of the nation's population—we created 20% of the nation's new jobs in that month. Texas edged us out once they did the revision, but we won't dwell on that. And the President is here in town today to talk about national numbers for May, which appear to be up, I think a positive gain of 400,000 jobs compared to the 290,000 jobs that the nation gained in the last month. So we move forward, not back.

Creating Jobs

There is no place—and I think we would all agree—no place more powerful in our state, in our county, in our country, as a family home. And there is nothing more critical for keeping that home than a job. We have really been hit in our state, as other states have been, with fighting back this wave of a foreclosure crisis, haven't we? I mean, neighborhoods that you never ever expected to see people walking away from homes, you see people walking away from homes—unable to hang onto that family home, unable to bring some of those nameless, faceless big national mortgage servicing giants to the table before the inevitable grinding mechanisms of foreclosure forces a family out on the curb.

We've done some good things—Ray Skinner is here from our office of Housing and Community Development. Together as a State, we actually have been pushing back against this, since the beginning of this crisis, investing about \$4 million dollars in non-profit housing counseling agencies to act as mitigation originators and we have a rate that is actually lower—except for about two months of this crisis—that is lower than the national rate of foreclosure. We've actually seen it finally coming down, if you look at the trend, over the last four months.

One of the things that kicks into effect on July 1st is new legislation that we passed in the General Assembly—with bipartisan support, I might add—to give every homeowner in our state a right to a mandatory mediation if they should so choose. In other words, instead of, if the big mortgage servicing companies pick up the phone to put a family into a home, we believe they should have to pick up the phone before they put a family out on the curb. And so, that kicks in in July. Alex Sanchez, who heads up our Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, works in tandem with Ray on this strategy. We're revving up the office of Administrative Hearings to handle those mediations.

I also wanted to outline just a few other things that we're doing, as I've concluded. We've passed a new hiring tax credit for any business, family-owned, large, medium, small, publicly-traded, that hires a Marylander off the unemployment rolls of our State. It's a \$5,000 credit. I need your help spreading the word on this. Every job's important; every job counts.

In order to prime the pump of small business lending, we also created a small business loan guaranty fund. We've been able to put \$10 million dollars in it. We suspect that will leverage another \$60, \$70 million dollars where we guarantee a portion of that—hopefully encourage banks to do more lending on Main Street.

We have also testified to Congress, and we believe that the president's proposal will pass that allows states to draw down on \$2 billion dollars that will be set aside, I believe from recycling TARP dollars, to really beef up their loan guarantee funds. We believe we can do a lot more work on that.

We also have proposed the other day, the I-270 corridor, and the program or initiative we call InvestMaryland, where we allow insurance companies to kind of pay forward their tax liabilities and then we invest those in the Maryland Venture Fund, which then leverages those dollars and gets a higher return than we would otherwise receive. That fund then becomes self-perpetuating and helps get venture capital to our start-ups in this creative state of ours.

And to ensure that all of our people have the skills to compete in this increasingly knowledge-based economy, we're making record investments not only in our public schools where we've actually increased school construction dollars for Prince George's County in these tough times by 67% compared to the prior four years. The Skills to Compete initiative, is an initiative to help our workers when they become displaced to go back and get that certification, so that they can go to the next level. I ran into a man the other day when we were putting up solar panels in Howard County up on the roof—all the media turned out by the way, they really wanted to see the governor fall off the roof. WJZ sent a traffic camera. But I met a guy there who works for a new company that installs solar panels on residential homes. He had been laid off by a moving company, he went to community college, got the certification he needed to do that sort of work, and now he's working for a new company that had all of about five employees eight months ago, and now has 67 employees and more work to do than they can catch up with. So that's all part of this notion of Skills to Compete.

While some other states that we see in the newspaper, we read about, have a problem, have definite shortages in terms of opportunity, sometimes our shortages are more shortages of skills—if our people have the skills, the opportunities are there. In higher education, we are alone among 50 states, therefore in going four years in a row with a penny's increase in college tuition—the only state to do that. And recently, many of you might have heard about Kiplinger's ranking of University of Maryland schools now among the top ten best value universities in the country. There was another report, Parents and Colleges, and they ranked not only Maryland in the top ten, but Bowie as the number one, best value education at a public university.

Conclusion

I'll wrap up with this great truth from Martin Luther King; he said that "Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable... Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals."

I think all of you exemplify what he was talking about. In these tough times, you've continued to forge ahead, kept your businesses going, you've been moved forward by that hope that we can make the world a better place for our kids, and for our children's children. I think there's a crisis that's gripping our country right now that's every bit as challenging as the economic crisis—it's a crisis of confidence, that nagging fear that perhaps we might be the last generation of Americans that will

enjoy a better quality of life than our parents and grandparents had, that somehow our kids are condemned to a nation that's in perpetual decline.

I don't buy that, and neither do the people that I serve. I consider myself very blessed to be able to serve the great people of our State. In times of adversity, we don't go back, we go forward. And I thank you all so very much for going forward, for moving forward and making the sacrifices and exertions necessary to give our children a better quality of life. Thanks very, very much.



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“We Work for Health”

June 22nd, 2010

Baltimore, Maryland

Bioscience Innovation in Maryland

Peter Greenleaf and everyone at MedImmune, thank you very, very much for what you do. I'll tell you, if you want to see an example of Maryland's economy continuing to move forward, walk the halls of MedImmune. It is really a beautiful reflection of the diversity that is our State, our leadership in cutting edge science and healing. Peter, thanks so much. It's not easy to be a CEO in these difficult times and to lead your company forward. But I thank you so much for what you're doing along with your team at MedImmune: lifesaving work about which everyone in our State is rightfully proud.

I want to thank Don Fry for his leadership of the Greater Baltimore Committee. It was the Greater Baltimore Committee years ago that recognized that we have a virtual wishbone offense because of the University of Maryland on the west side and Johns Hopkins on the east side for job creation in the life sciences and biotech. And the Greater Baltimore Committee has never veered away from the importance of this industry in our State's very diverse economy.

And thank you Kathy Snyder with the Chamber.

Fred Mason, it's great to join you and your entire command staff, who have come here to the World Trade Center. Fred, thank you. You're really bringing out the big guns when Ernie and Darren and Donna all show up here.

We're joined by Shawn Tarrant who has been a leader in our State Legislature on these issues.

Congressman Gephardt, thank you for your leadership in our nation and thank you for your leadership on these issues. And for coming here and recognizing through the efforts here today Maryland's leadership. It's very important to us. I also want to thank your team at the Council for American Medical Innovation as well as everyone with We Work for Health, thank you for recognizing the good things we're doing as a State.

Nothing makes us feel quite so good in a place that becomes pathologically modest

Releases

from time to time, than to have national leaders or people from other states recognize the things we're doing well. And there are many things we're doing well.

Our flag, Congressman, has a distinctive black and white, red and gold, which I once heard described in this way: that the black and white represents the shades of our diversity, that the red represents the red blood of humanity that all of us share as children of one God, and the gold represents the opportunity we have to be able to work together to make this world a better place for our children, and our children's children.

And you see that demonstrated in the life sciences. You see that in healing, you see that in the innovation economy.

I've got some good news for you. You want to hear some good news? Not only does Batelle say we're a leader in terms of life sciences and biotech and innovation and healing, but we have actually just come off of the third positive month of job creation in a row, in our State. (Applause.) This is the first three months in a row of positive job creation that we've seen since 2006 — I do believe it was January, February, March, if memory serves me correctly.

All these things, these advances — like moving our unemployment rate down from 7.5 down to 7.2 — they're not the product of chance, they're the product of choice. And tough choices often well made, especially in tough times, to get us to the other end of this recession so we can start creating jobs again, knowing that there's nothing more important in this world than a home and nothing more critical for protecting that home than a job.

Advancing the Life Sciences in Maryland

We're all here today because we believe in the enormous lifesaving job creating potential of life sciences and biotech. Advances that are revolutionizing the way we feed, fuel and heal our world.

In our grandparents' day, if they looked at some of the things that we see coming out of the pipeline now, they would say that those are nothing just a little bit short of miraculous cures. And yet they're happening all around us.

I want to talk to you briefly about the opportunities that we have as Americans and especially as Marylanders about our assets as Marylanders and about some of the items underscored by prior speakers,... the importance of investing in skills, the importance of investing in innovation.

I once heard Dr. Jeffrey Sachs, who frequents Baltimore, a renowned American voice on our potential, say that our future moral leadership of this world is going to be determined not by how many smart bombs we rain against our enemies halfway around the world. It's going to be determined by how many smart, educated, compassionate, hands and innovative cures we can extend to the most vulnerable of our neighbors all around the world. And what Dr. Sachs talks about is unleashing the "weapons of mass salvation."

One of the great ironies of our times is that all of the big scary "globals" — global recession, global pandemic, global flu, global food shortages — all of those things also have within them the seeds of a tremendous amount of job creation and

economic potential if we harness the challenges of our times in our capacity — because of our diversity — to innovate, to create, to market and to reach out to the rest of the world.

Our great task as Americans and Marylanders is to continue to invest in innovation so that we can keep it as one of our country’s greatest competitive economic strengths.

In Maryland, we are focused on creating and saving jobs every day, and improving the conditions that allow businesses like MedImmune and other companies to be able to do that.

And it’s my understanding that many of our strategies are similar — listening to Congressman Gephardt — to those outlined in the “Gone Tomorrow” report.

In Maryland, we are home to some of the world’s leading institutions of science and discovery and learning, including virtually all major Federal research and regulatory agencies that are so critical to this particular sector. In this building is housed the Maryland BioTechnology Center. It’s on the seventh floor for those of you that would like to visit on your way out and start a new company and create jobs.

It is no coincidence that we are also home to one of the largest per capita clusters of life science companies in America, with nearly 500 bioscience companies working at the cutting edge of science,... from Human Genome Sciences’ work on lupus drug to Novavax and MedImmune’s work on H1N1.

We’re also home to one of America’s most highly skilled workforces, a result of building what Education Week magazine has named two years in a row, in the middle of a recession, the best public school system in the United States of America.

And just the other day Newsweek said that no other State has more of its high school students enrolled in advanced placement courses (Applause.)

So why do we invest in education when times are tough? Why don’t we just take a flyer and say, you know what, it’s just too hard, we can’t afford to make college more affordable right now. We can’t afford to invest in our school system. It’s because those investments are the very thing that have us leading the nation out of this recession and creating jobs.

It’s our belief that the most important and effective investments that we can make in the biosciences and innovation are in the creativity, ingenuity, and skills and education of our people.

That’s why Batelle has recognized our leadership. That’s why the Milken Institute, in the middle of this recession, moved us from a fourth place ranking in life sciences and biotech to second place.

We’re making record investments this year in K-12 education. And, yes, \$1.3 billion in school construction, the most that we’ve ever invested in a four year period of time. (Applause.)

We’ve nearly doubled the number of kids taking AP courses in the STEM disciplines

– science, technology, engineering and math. Alone among 50 states, we’re the only state to have frozen college tuition; not one, not two, not three, but four years in a row. (Applause.)

And I appreciate what so many of you in this room have done to help us realize our action plan that moves us down the road for the vision of Bio 2020.

It was a vision that we laid out before the tsunami of a recession hit. But it’s one we continue to pursue. It’s a \$1.3 billion investment. We also have a \$70 million stem cell research fund, one of the most active — might not be the biggest, but it’s one of the most active in the country.

And last, but certainly not least, we also have been spurring innovation by doing things like increasing our biotech tax credit this year from \$6 million to \$8 million,... And like reauthorizing our R&D Tax Credit for a decade to provide that permanency, that stability, that ability for people to plan. (Applause.)

And we also created this year, because of the pain being suffered by so many moms and dads that for no fault of their own are out of work, we created a new hiring tax credit for any company — large, medium, small, family owned — that hires an unemployed Marylander off the unemployment rolls. It’s a \$5,000 credit.

As I conclude, I just wanted to close with one other new idea we’ve put out there this year and that is InvestMaryland. Which percolated up actually through the State Legislature this year.

The goal is to allow insurance companies to forward-pay some of the taxes that they know they’re already liable for in years out. And then we take those dollars and invest them in a venture fund, so that we can capitalize on our leadership and innovation to create more jobs more quickly than we otherwise would be able to create.

We are first in the nation in Federal research and development dollars. And the gap, Congressman, that you talked about between that research and development and the translation of that into job creation is a big priority for us as well.

Imagine if we were able to say that we were number one not only in research and development, but also in the translation science that leads to jobs.

I think our best days are ahead of us. A lot of these cures are things that people see as — our grandparents would see as miraculous. But they’re happening here because of the choices that we make. We have a stronger economy than most, we are coming through this recession in advance of others. And most importantly, we have the opportunity to make this world a better place for our children and theirs.

So I leave you with these words from the poet who said:

*So hope for a great-sea-change
On the far side of revenge
Believe that a farther shore
Is reachable from here
Believe in miracles
And cures and healing wells.*

And believe that as One Maryland we can make the choices that allow us to move forward together.

Thanks very, very much. (Applause.)



Tags: [bioscience](#), [health](#), [innovation](#), [job creation](#), [life science](#), [Maryland BioTechnology Center](#)

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Jobs, Jobs, Jobs

June 29th, 2010

Maryland Muncipal Leauge

Ocean City, Maryland

(As Prepared)

Thank you all very much,...Congratulations Gary Comegys on your election as President. And Congratulations Craig Moe on wrapping up a very successful term at the helm of this great organization. Mayor Sidney Katz, thank you for your hard work and leadership as the Chair of the State Share Revenue Workgroup. Thank you to Scott Hancock and your team at MML. Congratulations on a great convention!

I also want to thank Lieutenant Governor Anthony Brown for being here as well and for his participation every year with MML and for the great work that he's done on healthcare, higher education, on job creation with managing BRAC. Anthony is the highest ranking elected official in our country that has served a tour of duty in Iraq. (Applause.) He's not only, I think, one of the most effective Lieutenant Governors, if not the most effective Lieutenant Governor in the country, but he's also brought to this Administration a real sensitivity on a number of scores, including the way we care for our veterans when they come home from having served us. Your State does more than any other state. (Applause.)

We've heard some great truths tonight from Ms. McKenzie who said that great mayors work alongside their citizens. And also from Mayor Eckman, that service is our business.

I really want to thank all of you for the tremendous work that you do. And, Craig, again thank you for wrapping up a very successful presidency at the helm of this organization.

I was going over some of my remarks from last year, I'm sure you all saved a copy of it. (Laughter.)

You may be surprised to know that I warned of the tough decisions ahead and also talked about the hope that's going to come after these tough decisions. And I also cited the Serenity Prayer my mom always had on her refrigerator door. No doubt it could almost be the prayer of mayors, the one that goes:

[Releases](#)

*God, give us grace to accept with serenity
the things that cannot be changed,
Courage to change the things
which should be changed,
and the Wisdom to distinguish
the one from the other.*

I want to talk with you about what I know is on all of your minds and that is how we're going to weather this storm.

Tough Choices in Tough Times

I know that the Highway User Revenues cuts really hurt. And I want to talk about that.

I also want to talk about the storms, the back-to-back blizzards, that you fought back hard against. And I saw many of you during those weeks and you did a tremendous job. Talk about service being our business, I mean, that was a time when all of you were needed and you all stepped up. So I wanted to update you on the FEMA process.

And I also just wanted to touch on some of the very hopeful signs we're seeing that our economy is starting to turn and that, in fact, because of your hard work and because of the tough decisions we're making together, we're certain to come out of this thing.

I don't have a crystal ball, none of us do. But I do see a lot of reasons for hope out there and I hope you're starting to see them as well.

I do want to touch on another thing, though. Mayor Eckman was talking about his leadership in La Plata and Sydney and I were talking at the table there. Sydney Katz had sent a crew from Gaithersburg and we had sent a crew from Baltimore. And I will always remember when I got a call from Mayor Eckman, telling me that our crew had arrived there in La Plata. And it makes you feel so good in those times when people are really down and they feel like they've been knocked flat on their back that, as Mayor, you have the power to do something about that. And that's what happened in La Plata. And, you know, in a very real way that's what each of you has been doing in your towns for the last two years. Not a tornado, but certainly the deepest economic recession our country has seen since the Great Depression.

You should give yourselves all a pat on the back. I mean, people look to their Mayors, they look to their municipal leaders to provide that stability, that hope for the future, even amidst the challenges of these times.

I want to thank all of you for your partnership and your friendship over these years. We've made some impressive progress, even in these tough times. All of you serve because you know you're needed. And you know that it is also somewhere in your heart, you feel it's a tremendous privilege to be able to serve when you're needed.

If you think about the great leaders of our country, they're remembered not because they served in easy times, but because they served in tough times. And you have been the great leaders of our State because you have served in the toughest of times.

If you want to see an example of the resilient, strong forward looking character that's always defined us as Marylanders, look around at some of the people in this room, look around at people like Mayor Gail Carter of Glenarden, the new president of the Maryland Black Mayors, who is partnering with the First Baptist Church of Glenarden on initiatives to combat hunger in the face of these tough times.

Or leaders like Mayor Willey of Easton, who is fighting hard to save the jobs at the Postal Distribution Center.

Or Mayor Bill Gardiner and the city council of Hyattsville, who in partnership with the State are moving forward on \$100 million downtown revitalization, which is supporting hundreds of construction jobs right now and will support 100 retail jobs in the future.

Look at the tremendous strides that are being made on public safety, saving lives, in Annapolis and also in Salisbury. And hats off to Mayor Cohen and Mayor Ireton for their leadership.

"The future is not a gift, it's an achievement" and each of you is achieving that better future that all of us want for our kids.

You know, throughout our State, municipal leaders are moving our cities and our towns forward and you're doing so in the toughest of times.

I came across this book and I wanted to share it with you and it's by Margaret Wheatley, who some of you may be familiar with.

She said that, "It is possible to prepare for the future without knowing what it will be." And that "The primary way to prepare for the unknown is to attend to the quality of our relationships,..."

To attend to the quality of our relationships — I have done my very best to put in place in the O'Malley-Brown Administration a group of men and women who are competent at what they do. Who understand what housing and community development should be about, who understand the challenges that you're facing, who are there to pick up the phone when you call them.

I have not had the pleasure to be able to serve at a time when I had two nickels to rub together to help you out with your funding. I know that and you know that as well. But you know what? Competence does count for something and I really want to thank all of you who gave me such nice comments about people like Secretary Skinner and other people in this Administration, people like Kristen Mahoney in the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention.

And I thank you for being there on the other end of the phone as beacons of confidence and hope that we can make progress, even in tough times.

Now, our State has fared better than most states fare in this national recession, but I don't have to tell this room that that does not mean that we have gone through this without a lot of pain — a whole lot of pain. All across our State, through no fault of their own, a lot of moms and dads have lost their family homes. They've lost their jobs. Family owned businesses fighting for two years just to keep the doors open, had to close the doors. Our families have been forced by the recession to do more

with less, they've been fighting merely to survive.

And that's also been true of municipal and the state government as well. And through the heavy lifting of that special session — which in retrospect I'm very grateful that we were able to muster together the compromises that needed to be done, because if we hadn't we'd have been in the category with other states like California — but through that heavy lifting session, through two General Assembly sessions, not one, not two, not three, not four, but five mid-year rounds of cuts at the Board of Public Works, I affirmatively decided not to cut the Highway User Revenues. It was my hope, it was my sincere hope — and I don't mind telling you it was my nightly prayer — that we might see our economy rebound before I would have to do more cuts.

But, my friends, it didn't work out that way. And when I made the cuts to the Highway User Revenues it wasn't because I didn't know how painful and difficult that would be for each and everyone of you. I used to be mayor, I was mayor of a big city, I know how those Highway User Revenues — how important they are to you. And I hope it's some consolation to you — and I shared this with Scott and Sydney and Craig as well. The fact that it's one of the very last things cut hopefully is an indication to you that as we start to see our revenues rebound, it might well be one of the earlier things that we're able to restore. Because I know it's important to you.

Let me touch on one other thing on that score. This is the first Administration this side of the Great Depression where the state level of spending has actually been lower now than it was four years ago. That's never happened before.

We have cut and reduced spending by a total of \$5.6 billion and that Highway User Revenue cut, the municipalities share of that, represents 1.3 percent of the \$5.6 billion that we have cut. None of this has been fun. But you know what, none of us volunteered to serve only on condition that we serve in easy times, and so we move forward.

I want to compliment all of you on what you did to respond in that snow storm and let me touch on that.

The challenges that we faced with back-to-back blizzards that happened within a 72 hour period of time were totally unprecedented. And I have been personally appealing to President Obama and Secretary Napolitano, at Homeland Security, who oversees FEMA, along with our Congressional delegation — Barbara Mikulski, Frank Kratovil and our entire delegation. And we are pushing hard to try to get the Administration to waive the 75 percent reimbursement threshold and other ceiling thresholds. For the December snow, we've received word that FEMA has approved more than \$622,000 in direct reimbursements to municipalities — including, for example, nearly \$42,000 for Elkton, nearly \$35,000 for Aberdeen, and more than \$29,000 for Chestertown.

We are still awaiting word on outstanding applications and we will let you know just as soon as we get word about the February snow.

Jobs, Jobs, Jobs

Let me share some good news with you. You ready for some good news?
(Applause.)

How about some good news?

When the March job numbers came out, it was the first positive month of job gains that our State has seen in some 19 months. (Applause.)

We need to keep creating jobs. Since January we've created 38,000 jobs. That rate of job growth, by the way, is twice what the national rate of job growth has been.

Our unemployment rate is going down. We continue to be one of only eight states with AAA bond rating. Education Week Magazine — even in the midst of this recession, because of our protection of our children's future and education, we were declared by Education Week Magazine to have the best public school system in the United States two years in a row. Your State, our State. (Applause.)

Because of the good work that so many of you are doing in the municipalities, in the municipal police departments, together — even in the midst of a recession, with the joblessness and the pain that's out there — we were able to drive violent crime down to its lowest rate since 1975.

And recently — in the last legislative session, I want to thank you for helping us find and pass a bill that requires defendants in traffic cases to request a trial, rather than having their trial date automatically scheduled. And I hope that that will make a difference in some of the bottom lines on municipal budgets.

But there is no more powerful place in our State — and you know this — there is no more powerful place in our State than a family's house. And there's nothing more important for protecting that home than a job.

And so all of our jobs, collectively, needs to be to do everything we possibly can to save jobs, retain jobs, improve the conditions that allow our businesses, large and small, to create and save jobs. And I know that there's a lot of naysayers and a lot of pessimists who say there's nothing the government can do about that. But I don't buy that and I don't think you do either or you wouldn't be here.

I mean, we're creating 5,700 jobs at the Port of Baltimore through a public/private partnership, which only happened because the State chose to do so. GM is going to be building their next generation of electric drive motor right here in Maryland in White Marsh. Not by chance, but because we had that AAA bond rating, we were able to go toe-to-toe in that competition and bring what will be about 800 jobs because of that.

The more than 700 jobs that we're creating because of the Sustainable Communities Tax Credit that so many of you worked to pass in the legislature.

The 60,000 jobs Anthony Brown has shepherded here because of the Base Realignment and Closure process. Tech jobs, security jobs, cyber security jobs.

The jobs that have been created by our New Hiring Tax Credit — \$5,000 for any company large, medium or small, that hires one of our neighbors off of the unemployment roles.

The Small Business Loan Guaranty fund is getting the wheels of small business lending churning again and rolling again on Maryland main streets.

The thousands of jobs that — 13,000 actually in the last quarter — that were supported because of the Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The 20,000 jobs that are going to be supported because of our AAA bond rating and the capital investments being made around our State.

The jobs of tomorrow that are going to be coming here because we have the most highly educated and highly skilled workforce.

Forward, Not Back

Today, with stronger connections to one another, we are moving Maryland forward. There's not a doubt in my mind that it is large part due to you hanging in there, each and every one of you — hanging in there — in these tough times.

In tough times we don't make excuses. we make progress.

With the ability to create new jobs and secure global competitiveness as Marylanders, we move forward, not back.

With not only hope, but the true ability and better technology and better coordination with law enforcement, we've driven crime down to its lowest rate since 1975 and we're going to continue to save lives. Because in Maryland we move forward and not back.

With the ranking of the best schools in America we need to make sure our kids have the best education in the world because we move forward and not back.

With the ability to lead our whole nation to a much more sustainable future in balance and better harmony with the land, the air and the water and the creation around us, with the ability to restore the health of the Chesapeake Bay and the rivers and streams, we move forward, not back.

Conclusion

The best days in life are not the easy days, they're the tough days. And I thank you all so very, very much for hanging in there on the tough days.

Our best days are ahead of us, they're not behind us. Our best days are ahead of us. The night is darkest just before dawn. Our State is moving out of this recession and we're doing it at a time when our country really needs to do it.

So hang in there. We are all in this together.

And again, I thank you all so very, very much for what you do.



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Chesapeake Crescent Initiative

July 21st, 2010

Washington, D.C.

As Prepared For Delivery

It is great to be here. I especially want to thank Herb Miller, George Vradenburg and everyone

with the Chesapeake Crescent Initiative for your leadership in advancing science, security, and skills

and education throughout our region – the critically important ingredients for job-creation,

prosperity, and progress. We're joined today by Malcolm Woolf of the Maryland Energy

Administration, John Ratliff, my policy advisor, and Abby Hopper, my Energy Advisor. We're urgently focused in Maryland on creating jobs, saving jobs, and improving the conditions

that allow businesses large, medium, and small, to create and save jobs. And I know this is your

focus for our region as well.

Since January, in the State of Maryland we've been able to create 40,000 jobs at a rate that's more

than double the national growth rate. But none of us are out of the woods yet – not in Maryland,

not in Virginia, not in DC. These continue to be very tough times, and so everything we do

continues to boil down to creating and saving jobs.

Innovation – and green innovation in particular – is a critically important piece of our job-creation

puzzle. To give you just one example: we were able to convince GM to build their next electric

drive motor in Maryland, which will bring more than 800 direct, indirect, and induced jobs to our

State. That's first and foremost a win for jobs and our economy. It's also a win for GM and their

consumers. And it's a win for our planet as well.

One of the great ironies of these times is that is the very challenges we face with respect to global

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climate change – along with so many others of those big scary “globals,” global terror, global

recession, etc. – the immensity of these problems is driving innovation in every sphere of

education, science and technology.

And as this organization so rightfully reminds us, these are the very endeavors that we in this

region are able to count among our greatest job-creating (and planet saving) strengths. Because of

this, while some states and regions find themselves at the edge of a cliff, we in the Chesapeake

Crescent are at the precipice of greater job-creation and prosperity, driven by brilliant science,

innovative technology, and remarkable discoveries that will transform for the better, the way we

feed, fuel, and heal this world of ours.

In deference to the focus of today’s meeting, I wanted to briefly share with you a few thoughts on

“fueling” – specifically what we’re doing in Maryland to advance green energy and innovation, and

how we are working together with our partners in the region.

Advancing Green Innovation

It’s been our experience that the things that get counted and watched, are the things that get done.

So we’ve set some big goals in our State,... goals like creating, saving, and placing our fellow

citizens in 100,000 green jobs by 2015,... goals for reducing our carbon footprint and energy

consumption,... and goals for increasing our renewable energy portfolio standard 20% by 2022.

In our recent national history, job growth in the green economy has been about two and a half

times faster than job growth overall. In Maryland it’s one of the primary sectors we’re targeting for

job-creation. To further green job creation, we’re working to attract green businesses to our State,

and we’re helping our own businesses go green.

And, we’re investing in the most important ingredient for job growth and innovation: the talents,

skills, and education of our people. Because of record investments we’re making in the toughest of

times, we’ve been able to build in Maryland what Education Week magazine says are the nation’s

#1 best public schools. And with no increase in college tuition at our public colleges and

universities for four years in a row, we’ve made college education more affordable for more

Maryland families.

We are reinvigorating STEM education – science, technology, engineering, and math. We are working to implement environmental literacy into K-12 curricula. We are working with our community colleges to help them offer green skills training. And together with our partners in Labor, we're creating green apprenticeships and skills training initiatives. Advancing green innovation is a multi-front war. One of these fronts is automobiles, where we've passed Clean Cars reforms and tax-credits for plug-in cars. In addition, we are building dozens of

electric vehicle charging stations around Maryland to attract and support the emerging electric vehicle industry.

We're also working to strike better balances between roads and rail by moving forward with the

Purple Line in Greater Washington and the Red Line in the Baltimore Area. And we're putting a

statewide emphasis on Transit Oriented Development – promoting public transit, easing traffic

congestion, and creating new opportunities for job creation.

Another important front is energy for homes and businesses – where we've created tax incentives

and grant initiatives to help families and businesses go green.

To help school systems get more out of every dollar they invest – and to advance our goals for

green innovation and job creation – we've established LEED silver standards for school

construction. That's a big deal when you consider the \$1.3 billion we're investing in new

construction. As we move forward, we want to double Energy Service Contracts for our schools in

which contractors install things like energy efficient windows and lights, and our schools use their

energy savings to finance these upgrades.

And through an initiative we call Project Sunburst, we are leveraging federal dollars to put solar

panels on 31 government buildings – allowing us to create as many as 250 new jobs, and tripling

the amount of solar currently on our grid.

These are a few of the things that we're working on in Maryland. As we move forward, we know

our greatest job creating potential is strengthened by our ability to work with partners across our

state borders – and the Chesapeake Crescent's BEST Consortium proposal is a great example. We

believe that working together, we can leverage a \$130 million federal investment into billions of

dollars economic activity, spurred by green innovation.

To give you one final example before I close: Governor Markel of Delaware and I have asked President Obama to join our states in a power purchase agreement for offshore wind energy which could create as many as 15,000 clean energy jobs. By combining our market power with the federal government, we can create the economies of scale necessary to attract manufacturers of offshore wind equipment and installation vessels – thus creating jobs and fueling economic growth.

Conclusion

It's been said that "Sustainability is about stabilizing the currently disruptive relationship between earth's two most complex systems – human culture and the living world" The magic of these times, is that by stabilizing this once disruptive relationship, we are actually creating a new harmony between the health of our planet, and the health of our greatest job creating engines.

Thanks again for the opportunity to join you here,... and for everything you're doing to move our region forward; forward for jobs, forward for innovation; forward for a cleaner, greener, more sustainable future.

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Chesapeake Crescent Initiative

REMARKS BY GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY

Washington, D.C.
July 21, 2010

AS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY

It is great to be here. I especially want to thank Herb Miller, George Vradenburg and everyone with the Chesapeake Crescent Initiative for your leadership in advancing science, security, and skills and education throughout our region – the critically important ingredients for job-creation, prosperity, and progress. We're joined today by Malcolm Woolf of the Maryland Energy Administration, John Ratliff, my policy advisor, and Abby Hopper, my Energy Advisor.

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Green Economy Forum

July 24th, 2010

Baltimore , Maryland

This is exciting. I'm really excited to be here. The mission here is to create and retain green jobs, to responsibly utilize scarce and finite natural resources, to protect, restore, preserve and enhance our environment, and to support the use of clean and efficient energy. That has been what the Green Jobs Industry Task Force has been working on. And I'm really excited, I'm so impressed with your work.

One of the big challenges we have is articulating where we're going and a vocabulary that all of us as citizens, not just as industry specialists, not just as people in government who deal with this day in and day out, but in ways that every citizen can understand. And these are new challenges and they require new vocabulary and a clear way to articulate a way forward.

I'll bet you, just as the biotechnology vision and the cyber vision before it, you're going to see a lot of other states following Maryland's lead, as indeed, we have always led, especially in times of adversity. And we sure have our fair share of it out there today.

But this is about reconsidering, reconstructing, redesigning the relationship between the technologies of how we have always lived and the science of how our natural world can long survive. And it's going to require not only a greater and wider and more broadly accepted understanding of the science, but it's also going to require retooling and re-imagining and reinventing of the technologies and actually distributing them.

I want to thank all of you for joining us and embracing the job-creating, planet-saving potential of Maryland's green economy.

I firmly believe that there is no place in our State more powerful than a family's home and there is nothing more important for protecting that home than a job,... which gives a tremendous amount of urgency to our mission of creating jobs, saving jobs, retaining jobs, and improving the conditions that allow businesses, entrepreneurs and innovators to create and save jobs.

Since January — I have some good news for you — we have had not one, not two, but three months in a row of positive job creation as a State. That's the first time

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that's happened since the beginning of 2006. (Applause.)

And it is, in part, thanks to the innovative business owners and entrepreneurs who are here and also, in part, thanks to — I'd like to think — better policies and the urgency of the challenges before us.

The Chamber of Commerce recently rated Maryland #2 in the nation for entrepreneurship and innovation.

As our world grows smaller and more interconnected, we have some tremendous opportunities for moving forward with greater job creation and prosperity and advancing innovation —leveraging our competitive advantages in the life sciences, biotech, high-tech, green-tech, clean-tech, information technology and cyber security,... realizing that they all very inter-connected.

For about 400 years, Western thought has focused on reducing things to their smallest denominator. I think increasingly we are embracing the notion that we have to have a more balanced understanding of the whole. And within that drive for greater balance is a tremendous need for innovation and creation and new opportunities.

A great example of that here in Maryland is our competition for — and our winning of — GM's decision to build the next electric drive motor here in Maryland, in White Marsh. It could have gone to a lot of other places, but they are bringing it here because of the quality of our workforce, our proximity to places of research, creation, innovation and discovery. And it's going to create 800 jobs right here in Maryland.

It's a win for our planet as well. And one of the great ironies of these times is that the immensity of the challenges we face, all the big globals, right? Global climate change, global sea level rise, global terror, global recession, global this, global that all of those things are also the things that are driving innovation and driving progress.

Arnold Toynbee said that people, individuals, societies progress in response to adversity. And if it's too great, then the adversity will overwhelm it and you'll have a desert situation and civilization will either die or move away. If it's too little, civilization atrophies and dies away in a different sort of lazy way. But if you have the right amount of adversity, then in that innovation, creativity, and the "rational application of human effort to human problems" drives progress. So, by God, I think we're in for a lot of progress now, don't you?

Creating and Saving Green Jobs

Between 1998 and 2007, job growth in our nation's emerging green economy has grown two and-a-half times faster than jobs overall. Two and-a-half times faster than jobs overall.

Here in Maryland, we've set the big goal for our State of creating, saving, and placing our fellow Marylanders in 100,000 green jobs by 2015. And, at present, our State is home to an estimated 75,000 green jobs — we could debate all day over definitions, but our best, most subjective view of this is 75,000 green jobs ranging from consulting and scientific services to construction and waste management.

I want to thank the members of the Task Force for your hard work. Our mission is to help our businesses, large and small, to adopt green technologies and green practices while also working to grow our existing companies, our existing workforces and recruiting new green businesses to Maryland.

That's it. That's who we are. That's what we need to do in a Maryland that's smart, green and growing.

And simultaneously we're also working to advance green technology and innovation within our State by creating tax incentives and grant initiatives to help families and businesses go green; passing landmark clean cars legislation; leading the charge for America's first cap and trade auction of greenhouse gas emissions; setting big goals for reducing energy consumption and increasing our renewable energy portfolio; and also for reducing our carbon footprint, both as a State and as a corporation. That publicly held corporation known as the State Government of Maryland.

The other important piece of the green jobs puzzle, though, is a very valuable asset that you and I, together, have not only protected, but improved, even during these tough times,... and that is the quality of our system of education. Not only K-12 education where for the first time ever, and in the midst of a recession, we've been named by Education Week magazine as the number one public school system in America.

But also — also importantly — the affordability of college, by being the only state in the country to go four years in a row without a penny's increase in college tuition. And, get this, we have increased by 65 percent in a four year period of time the number of our children in our public high schools who are taking AP courses in science, technology, engineering and math. There is no other state in America that is doing all of these things in these tough times.

It goes to the quality of our workforce, the "Skills2Compete" and our ability to create and innovate.

Conclusion

So I'm looking forward to this discussion. It's been said that "the environment is not only a mirror of ourselves, but a focusing lens on what we can become." And I think that's true of this mission.

And I thank you all so very much for your attendance, your hard work and for the jobs you are creating as promised, and are able to create in the years ahead for our people.

Thanks a lot. (Applause.)



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Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act

July 26th, 2010

Baltimore, Maryland

(As Prepared)

I want to thank all of you for coming out today. It's a great day because we're marking the 20th anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and with it the guarantee for more than 54 million of our fellow citizens of basic freedoms like independence, equal access, and freedom of choice and inclusion.

As Marylanders and as Americans, we've always been at our strongest when we embrace the higher notion that we are all in this together; that there is more that unites us than divides us. We're united by our belief in the dignity of every individual. We're united by our belief in our own responsibility to advance the greater good. And we're united by our understanding that there is no such thing as a spare Marylander or spare American,... that one person can make a difference, all of us must try, and God loves even the partial victories.

These values guide us in our fight to create jobs, to save jobs, and protect our middle class families during tough times. We are all in this together, and we move our State forward, together.

Moving Maryland Forward

With a 200% increase in enrollment in the Employed Individuals with Disabilities Program ,... we move forward not back;

With a 7% increase over four years for DORS services – investments that are allowing us to serve nearly 11,000 Marylanders with disabilities – together we move forward, not back;

With dramatic decreases in wait times for DORS services,... together we move forward, not back;

With a nearly 55% increase in investments (even in the toughest of times) to create employment and higher education opportunities for young people with disabilities – investments that will allow us to serve more than 600 additional people – together we move forward, not back;

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With a 24% increase in investments to support Marylanders with developmental disabilities,...and a 71% increase in tough times for the Infants & Toddlers Program,... We move forward, not back;

With options that allow former Rosewood residents to better integrate in our communities,.... We move forward, not back;

With new reforms that make closed captioning in public places available to anyone who requests it, ... We move forward, not back;

And with new protections for student athletes with disabilities, thanks to the Fitness and Athletics Equity Act,... we move forward, not back;

Conclusion

It's been said that *"Truth is the summit of being; [and] justice is the application of it to [human] affairs."*

Twenty years ago, guided by the higher truth that we are all in this together, we achieved the justice of the American's with Disabilities Act. We have made progress, but we still have more work to do. And so today our fight for a more just Maryland and a more just America continues.

With your help, your hearts, and your hard work we will continue to move Maryland forward, together. Thank you all very much.



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Tags: [Americans with Disabilities Act](#), [DORS services](#), [Employed Individuals with Disabilities Program](#), [Fitness and Athletics Equity Act](#)

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Jobs Across Maryland Tour: BioPark

July 29th, 2010

Baltimore, Maryland

It is great to see Janet Owens here, who has been such a tremendous leader of our State as the County Executive in Anne Arundel County and now does wonderful work for the University of Maryland Baltimore Foundation and the future that we are creating here. Plus, we get to see Delegate McHale.

But it's wonderful to join all of you here. We are declaring the City of Baltimore Capital for a Day. We're not bringing any lobbyists, but we are bringing the entire State Government to Baltimore, we're declaring it Capital for a Day. It's something that we've been doing all around the State for the last four years. Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake says how come you never come back to make Baltimore the Capital for a Day? So, by golly, we're doing it today.

And sometimes people ask me what are the things you enjoy most about this job? And I said, Well, I always like being with children and nature and I always love coming back to Baltimore and having a day to ride around Baltimore and get to see the sort of things that are happening in Baltimore. And none are more exciting today than what's happened this side of Martin Luther King over these last several years.

It's wonderful to be here at our top-notch public university, the University of Maryland-Baltimore, one of the preeminent public research universities in the nation, home of BioPark, a leader in advancing new discoveries and new healing. And Dr. Claire Frasier-Leggett, good to see you again, one of our leading docs, one of our key players, unlocking the potential of the human genome.

It was just over six years ago that we came together here, at what was then a vacant Westside field, to break ground for BioPark. And there were lots of cynics and lots of doubters and they said you'll never get people to come to this side of Martin Luther King. But we have.

Dr. Reese, it's great seeing you, and thank you for all your leadership at the University of Maryland Hospital system and University of Maryland Medical School and all the tremendous work that goes on here.

BioPark now supports more than 400 jobs. They were jobs that did not exist before. And in this world of cynicism and pessimism where we think, wow, there's nothing

Releases

the government can do about anything, the truth of the matter is, this would not have happened, were it not for partnerships with state government, with city government, with the University. Baltimore City Community College is now here at this location as well. So those are 400 jobs that did not exist a few years ago.

And it's moving us closer, not only to being able to say that we have finally come out of this recession and we are in recovery, but it's also moving us closer quite possibly to cures for diseases like cancer, malaria and diabetes – all some of the biggest challenges that face us as a people. The answers to these challenges are being worked on here, in your State and in this place.

Our focus in these difficult economic times, of course, as you would rightly want it to be, has been on creating jobs, saving jobs, and improving the conditions that allow businesses large and small to create and save jobs.

And on that front, I have some good news for you. Maryland, over the last year, has retained her private job base better than all but four other states in the nation. We have created now – over the last four months, we have had four months in a row of positive job growth. That's 40,000 jobs. If you look at the first six months of this year, it is the best six months of job creation that we have had since 1996. And BioPark is a part of that.

This year the Kauffman Foundation ranked Maryland third for our ability to move forward into this new innovation economy. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce ranked your state, Maryland, second in terms of being the most enterprise-friendly state in the U.S. for entrepreneurship and innovation. And again, BioPark is a big part of that.

We are one of only eight states that still has a Triple A bond rating and we have been named now two years in a row, in the toughest of times, for the first time ever, by the way, as having the best public schools of any of the 50 states in America by Education Week magazine.

We are coming out of this recession and we are coming out of it into a decade that I believe is Maryland's decade. It is Maryland's decade because of science, because of security, because of health, because of technology, and in our innovation-based economy, it's hard to tell where one of those things leaves off and the other begins, because they are all becoming part of this larger awareness of how important the whole is.

For 400 years in Western thought we've been trying to get down to the finest, tiny little particle and now we wake up and we realize that the real answer is understanding how we're connected to the larger piece. And I think that's at what the core of what the discoveries and human genome is all about, it's about figuring out how it all fits together; how this drug may intersect and interact with a constellation in a particular human being with their background and their genetic make-up, yet it's different from how it affects another human being.

And in the same sense, but in a macro sense, that's what this drive for a cleaner, greener, more sustainable future is all about, in terms of our own interactions as the most disruptive force on the planet – namely civilization, with the natural forces and discovering ways that we can nonetheless create a better future for our kids.

I think it's almost belittling to say that these are exciting times. I mean, these are those transformational times where we look over our shoulders 10, 20 years hence, and our whole world is changed around us. It's really our freedom and our responsibility to make sure it's a change for the better. To continue to move forward, to continue to create jobs, to continue to create cures, to harness the tremendous advantages that we have as Marylanders, as that State that is so well-equipped to thrive, survive, compete and win in a global economy, where innovation is the key to success. Life sciences, high tech, clean tech, green tech, information technology, cyber security and bio tech.

Creating Jobs through Advancing Innovation

Governor O'Malley addresses a gathering at UMB's BioPark as Baltimore is declared Maryland's Capital for a Day

Today we're proud to announce, number one, the BioInnovation Center here, which offers lab and office space for emerging companies, is going to be doubling in size and capacity over the next six months. So that is an expansion, when complete, that will be 18,000 square feet of space, with workspace for 50 people, helping to meet the growing need for quality lab space here in Baltimore. All of this discovery science and job creation requires an infrastructure and that lab space is an important part of that infrastructure.

Number two, even in these tough times we have three companies here at BioPark that are growing and adding jobs. Big applause for that.

And those companies are Gliknik – who is here from Gliknik, anybody here from Gliknik? You, sir, are here from Gliknik. And Gliknik is doing groundbreaking work on cancer vaccines.

We also have a company called Fyodor, which is improving the way that malaria is diagnosed and treated. And you are here representing Fyodor.

And we also have Biomere. Who is here from Biomere? They're working. Biomere, which is testing new and promising drugs.

We also have – and I already announced him, David Block from Gliknik, and Dr. Eddy Agbo.

The growth of these innovative companies is allowing us to build on the progress that we've already made to nurture and grow our biosciences and research industries and promote and advance new discoveries in healing. And every large company starts off as a small company. And that's true throughout every endeavor. Sometimes people say, like, you look at the biotech, and it looks like this company only has 40 or 50 people. Well, that's now. Imagine what can happen as we move forward.

I was with Kevin Plank of Under Armour, the University of Maryland graduate, he created Under Armour with two guys in a basement, I think. And now what tremendous growth has happened.

To move forward in advancing innovation, we increased this year – and I think we're the only state in the country to do so – we had a very successful BioTech tax credit

of

\$6 million and we took it up to \$8 million. And I believe we're the only one in the country to actually expand our BioTech tax credit.

We're investing \$70 million in stem cell research, we have one of the most active – might not be the largest, but, you know, Maryland always fights over our weight class, so we have one of the most active stem cell funds going, with \$70 million so far.

And through our Bio 20/20 initiative we have laid out the pathway for a \$1.3 billion action plan for the years ahead that will continue to bolster Maryland's leadership and Maryland's ability to create jobs, jobs and more jobs, because of our leadership in science and research and discoveries and cures.

And we're also going to be proposing in the next General Assembly session the InvestMaryland initiative, which, in essence, allows us – you know, in these times when credit markets are crunched and venture capital seems to be retreating into its shell, this is a way for us to allow some big entities, like insurance companies in our State, to forward pay \$100 million in taxes that they know they're going to owe over the next five years, but to do so at somewhat of a discounted rate. And then we invest those into a venture fund that continues to recycle and allow our entrepreneurs to continue to create jobs, which we believe can stimulate hundreds of millions, perhaps even billions in additional economic activity.

And to move forward by creating jobs, we also created this year the new Hiring Tax Credit, so \$5,000 for any company – large, medium or small – that hires a Marylander off of the unemployment rolls and gets them back to work.

We also created a Small Business Loan Guaranty Fund. We hope to get word from Washington at any moment that our proposal that they allow us to access – states that have these small business loan guaranty funds – to access the dollars that have been repaid to the federal government, those first dollars, so that we can funnel them back into main street where they can get the wheels of our economy going – you know, two thirds of all jobs are created by small businesses.

So those are some of the things we're doing. You know, none of them is by accident, they're all a product of our choices.

We are now creating jobs at twice what the national job creation rate has been for the last four months. And I love saying this one for the benefit of our neighbors on the other side of the Potomac, whom we love dearly, but are often compared to – we have been creating jobs at a rate that is twice what Virginia has been creating jobs at for the first six months of this year.

And there's exciting times ahead. We move forward with the workforce that continues to be our greatest job-creating asset. We're also making record investments in our schools this year, even in the toughest of times. We're the only State in America to go four years in a row without a penny's increase in college tuition.

We have been able to increase participation in science, technology, engineering and math AP courses in our high schools by 65 percent in a four-year period. There aren't many school systems in any state that are making that sort of progress and

we're also revamping and rededicating our STEM curriculum in our State.

Conclusion

So let me wrap up. I'm very, very excited about the decade ahead. You know, when I think back, was it only six years ago? This was a vacant pathway of land. Thank goodness it was vacant, you know. That put us at least a couple steps further down the road. But we looked at that land and the University of Maryland – at the time it was the University of Maryland at Baltimore – I understand, it's so sad that we dropped the "at." I thought it was an endearing way – an endearing Baltimore way, you know, sort of, Where you going to school at?

University of Maryland at Baltimore and the City of Baltimore joined together and said, You know, those vacant lots that we have to clean up, cut the weeds, and all of that, that could be a tremendous runway of development. I don't think at the time we ever would have dreamed that as many buildings would have gone up as quickly as they have in this corridor.

But it's a testament to the reality that our world and our history are always emerging. That history is not a circle, it is continuing. And it is up to us to choose to move down that road, to move forward and to recreate a new world.

And Jeff Sachs, who was an advisor to Kofi Annan, the great American public health doc, said that our future from moral leadership in this world is going to be determined not by how many smart bombs we're able to unleash on enemies halfway around the world, it's going to depend on how many smart heads and hands, the healing work we can do to reach out around the world with those weapons of mass salvation that can keep tens of thousands of children every month from things like malaria and dysentery and other things that we view, as Americans, as totally preventable. And, indeed, they are.

And in that moral leadership is also the key to future job creation – not 20 years from now, but now, today and tomorrow.

A great American named Thomas Berry once said, in his book, *The Great Work*, "We are not lacking in the dynamic forces needed to create the future. We live immersed in a sea of energy beyond all comprehension. But this energy, in an ultimate sense is ours not by domination, but by invocation."

Together we have the power to invoke that energy. Together there is not another group of people – in our country, anyway – that is better equipped with our degree of talent, our skills and our diversity, to show America that our best days are still in front of us.

So, together, let's move forward. Let's move forward to those better days. Let's be proud of what we have accomplished in these toughest of times, but let it also be the substance that gives us the energy, or rather the power to invoke the energy through a better tomorrow.

Thank you all very much.



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Tags: [biopark](#), [biosciences](#), [Innovation Economy](#), [technology](#), [UMBC](#), [University of Maryland-Baltimore](#)

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License Plate Recognition Announcement

August 4th, 2010

Prince George's County, Maryland

It's great to be here in Gorgeous Prince George's County. A few months ago, we chose to announce here in Prince George's that we've succeeded together, as One Maryland, in driving violent crime, homicide, and auto theft down to the lowest rates in our State since 1975 (with a 36% decrease in auto theft between 2006 and 2009).

And here in Prince George's County, we're making our neighborhoods and communities safer, with the lowest violent crime rate since 1984, the lowest overall crime rate since 1975, and the lowest automobile theft rate since 1985 – with nearly a 44% reduction in auto thefts over the past three years.

To move Maryland forward, we must continue the progress we're making together to take our streets and neighborhoods back for our families.

The public's safety is the most sacred and important priority of government at any level – and in our State government, as we work to create jobs, save jobs, and protect our middle class families, we know that our forward-moving, job-creating progress is only possible with safer streets, healthier neighborhoods, and a strong, growing, and increasingly diverse middle class.

License Plate Reader Announcement

The progress we're making together on public safety isn't a result of chance. It's a result of choice; choices we're making together to partner and align our efforts like never before,... choices we're making to set big goals and hold ourselves accountable for reaching them,... choices to openly measure the performance of our institutions and efforts,... choices to broadly share information rather than hoarding it,...

... And the choices we're making to apply emerging technologies to crime fighting; technologies like Geographic Information Systems, DNA analysis, advanced fingerprinting, and the topic we're here to discuss: license plate readers: cameras and computers that scan vehicle license plates and match those plates against databases of stolen vehicles, wanted persons and other law enforcement and

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homeland security databases.

Today, we're announcing three strategies we're advancing to expand license plate recognition in the State of Maryland:

1. We are creating a first-in-the-nation statewide network for license plate recognition which will integrate both state and local data so that we are able to more effectively locate an abducted child, a stolen car, a violent offender who has violated parole, or another threat to safety and security.
2. To maximize the effectiveness of the network for saving lives and protecting our public safety, we are creating a single, easy-to-use database which will allow law enforcement throughout our State to retrieve data from the network.
3. We will use of a combination of federal grants and existing state funds to invest \$2 million in 100 new readers, which we will deploy across our State over the next year. The investment will come in the form of grants to local law enforcement agencies – and it will double the \$2 million we have provided to local agencies for the deployment of 105 readers across our State.

The bottom line is that this technology works – and we've already been having success in putting it to use here in Maryland, using it to locate and arrest drug dealers, thieves, carjackers, and violent offenders who violate the terms of their parole among others.

In addition to helping us drive down automobile theft to the lowest rate in Maryland since 1975, this technology doubles as a powerful homeland security tool for safeguarding places like BWI, the Port of Baltimore and transit stations throughout our State.

Thank you all very much. We continue to work together, as One Maryland, to move our State forward by improving public safety.



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Tags: [automobile theft](#), [crime](#), [law enforcement](#), [license plate](#), [Prince George County](#), [technology](#)

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Maryland's Race to the Top Plan

August 11th, 2010

Washington, DC

Good morning, my name is Martin O'Malley, I am the Governor of the State of Maryland, and on behalf of the nearly 844,000 students and the 5.75 million citizens whose economic futures depend on the quality of public education in Maryland, I want to thank you for the opportunity to present Maryland's Race to the Top plan.

By any number of objective measures, the people of our State have, through their hard work, investments, and sound decisions, created over the last 20 years one of the best public school systems of any state in America. We are excited about Race to the Top because we believe with your support and partnership, we can lead the race to restore Public Education in the United States to the top of the world.

In Maryland's Plan, we focus on great teachers and great leaders; high standards; robust and timely data systems; and the capacity to turn around under performing schools. With your support, Maryland's Plan – in short order – will create a new data-driven platform for effective leadership and collaboration, improved performance, and higher student achievement across the entire educational mission. We are excited about our plan and think you will be as well.

If there is one theme we'd like to impress upon you it is this: Maryland is large enough to make a difference, we are small enough to make it happen, and – in the toughest of times — we have a proven track record of setting goals, measuring performance, and delivering results in education reform and student achievement across all income levels and ethnic backgrounds of our diverse State.

In fact, our statewide student population is majority minority, and we see our diversity as our strength.

While there are only five of us on the panel before you, Maryland's plan has had the benefit of a broad-base of stakeholder input – teachers and their union representatives from AFT and NEA, principals, our 24 district superintendents (and yes there are only 24); our State School board (which has more authority by statute than virtually any state board in the country); members of our higher education community from Johns Hopkins to the University of Maryland, and our partners from the business community through the Maryland Business Roundtable for Education.

Releases

In my brief opening, I would like to 1) introduce you to our panel while giving you a road map for our presentation and 2) give you a thumbnail sketch of Maryland's Innovation Economy and the highly skilled and educated people I have the honor to serve in these challenging and transformational times.

First our panel:

- Dr. Nancy Grasmick is our State Superintendent of Education
- Dr. William Hite, is the Superintendent of Schools for Prince George's County Schools one of our largest school districts – which along with Baltimore City, has seen some of the most dramatic improvements in student achievement over these last several years , and he will be presenting the impact of our plan from the perspective of a district Superintendent,...
- Dr. Jim Foran is project director of our Race to the Top application
- Dr. Colleen Seremet is the Assistant Superintendent for Instruction

I'll wrap up with a parents perspective because I'm a dad, and that's my job,...

Let me conclude this introduction by saying that in Maryland we agree wholeheartedly with President Obama's assertion that, *"America cannot lead in the 21st Century unless we also have the best educated, most competitive workforce in the world..."*

Maryland's Race to the Top

Maryland's economy is an Innovation Economy. In fact, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce ranks Maryland's economy as one of the top two States for innovation and entrepreneurship. Together we are making major commitments to the life sciences, green tech and cyber security. We have the advantage of a unique set of assets: some of the world's leading institutions of higher learning, science, healing, and discovery; 58 federal agencies and facilities; Fortune 500 companies; more PHD's per capita than any State in America; and, one of America's most highly skilled workforces.

Because of our Innovation Economy, in Maryland we know that investments that improve the education of our children, are investments that expand economic opportunities for our entire State. Education Week Magazine has ranked Maryland's schools number one in the nation for two years in a row. The Milken Institute ranks Maryland #1 in America for investing in our "human capital" – the talents, skills, and education of our people. In times when virtually every state government has been forced to make record budget cuts and spending reductions, our State has chosen to make record investments in public education and school construction. And we have increased participation in STEM related AP courses by 65% over these last four years.

In Maryland, the education mission is performance driven.

Why? Because in Maryland we know that *"the future is not a gift: it is an achievement."*

Your Race To The Top investment in Maryland will be an investment in America's

future.

It's an investment in a State that has demonstrated time and again our commitment to excellence and equity.

A state that has codified important education reforms – including adequacy of funding — into law.

A state that has been nationally recognized by numerous publications for measuring performance in government with openness and transparency.

A state with a proven track record of delivering results.

A state that leads the nation in innovation and public education.

And a state that can lead the way for all States in achieving for America's children, an education that is truly world class.

A Parent's Perspective

Let me talk about what this will mean for parents,... Our race to the top plan creates a new easy to access platform that will empower parents to find out instantly, in real-time over the internet, how their child is doing and how their child's school is doing. Access will be available not only from home but importantly, from public libraries,... and training will be available to every Maryland parent.

Parents will be able to learn what their child's school is doing to address challenges and whether their child's school is improving.

They will be able to learn about wraparound services like afterschool programs, nutrition and health. They will be able to request a case manager to assist with things like eye and dental care, attendance, counseling and even lifelong fitness.

The bottom line is that parents will be invited into their child's educational experience and given the opportunity to engage in more meaningful ways as the critically important and essential leader in driving student achievement and school performance.

Conclusion

Maryland is large enough to make a difference, small enough to make it happen, and we have a proven track record of setting goals, measuring performance, and delivering results in education reform and student achievement.

We won't let you down – we are prepared in Maryland to lead the way in achieving, for America's children, an education that is truly world class.

Thank you again for the opportunity to present our plan.



Tags: [Innovation Economy](#), [investment](#), [public education](#), [Race to the Top](#)

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Creating Jobs, Recovering Stronger

REMARKS BY GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY TO THE MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

Ocean City, Maryland
August 21, 2010

Thank you all very much ,... I always love coming here to MACO.

I love the ocean. There's something about being at the ocean that always reminds us of being kids and makes us hopeful about the future.

This is where I first got up the nerve in 1986 to approach Katie O'Malley and try to chat her up. *(Laughter.)* It was a very short conversation. *(Laughter.)* But I was as persistent and as resilient then as I am now! *(Applause.)*

I want to talk with you a little bit about our shared challenges, about our shared opportunities, about the reality that all of us face together. And also about the most important imperative that we have right now and it can all be summed up in one word with four letters -- and that is "*jobs.*"

It's been a challenging time and yet our State continues to look forward, in no small part due to all of you. And you build on the accomplishments the people of our State have made in the past,... and in the toughest of times you protect those priorities and you lead us forward.

I want to say two special thanks you's to friends who have been outstanding leaders of our State, and they are County Executive Jim Smith and Commission President Jan Gardiner. You have been terrific. *(Applause.)* You've both been outstanding. And I think the people of our State should consider themselves very, very fortunate that people like you, Jim and Jan, have given so much of your energy and your time, and some of the best years of your lives to protecting our shared priorities and moving us forward in tough times.

I saw Ike and Catherine Leggett walking in a little earlier. (*Applause.*) I saw Ingrid Tuner out there, and I spent some time with Mayor Stephanie Rawlings Blake. Thank you for your leadership.

These last few years have been difficult years and I will always consider it one of the great honors of my life that I had the privilege and the blessing to serve with all of you in these times. Not because they were easy, but because they were hard and notwithstanding the difficulties ahead of us.

But nonetheless, all of us clung tightly to the beliefs that unite us: a belief in the dignity of every individual, a belief in our own responsibility to advance the greater good, and an understanding that we are all in this together. And that we progress as a people not on the weakness, but on the strength of our neighbors. And that is why we're able to move forward as a State.

Today, you know, it's hard to use a metaphor of these stormy economic years. Especially given all the real life weather events that we've been going through. For Ike Leggett and the people in Montgomery County -- after the tornado, after the floods, after the snowstorms, after the thunderstorms -- they're all looking up in the sky waiting for the locusts to come in next.

These have been tough years economically, and they've been tough years in terms of the weather. I want to let you know right off the bat that we have been approved for upwards of \$25 million in Federal reimbursements for the snowstorms we faced last year. And we continue to work to secure additional Federal dollars.

I came across this today and I wanted to share it with you. I was reading earlier this morning and it goes like this, from, Thomas Merton, who writes, "*it is not [right] to despair the present, merely putting off hope into the future. There is also a very essential hope that belongs in the present, and is based on the nearness of the hidden God, and His spirit in the present.*"

MARYLAND'S RECOVERY

I want to talk with you about that present. I want to talk with you about coming out of these economic storms ahead of other states and stronger than other states. And I also want to talk with you about the truth that has become so apparent to all of us these last three years of challenge. And that truth is this: that there is no more powerful place in our State than a family's home and there is nothing more critically essential for protecting that home than a job.

So I want to talk with you about jobs and I want to speak with you honestly about a clear reality, about the choices before us. The choices that we make, the choices that we are making, the choices that we must continue to make in order to improve the conditions that allow businesses -- large, medium and small -- to save jobs, retain jobs and create jobs. Because that is what it's going

to take to move our State forward. Making the tough decisions, the right decisions, the tough but right choices to move us forward.

I think we would all agree that our focus absolutely has to be on jobs. And on this front I am glad to be able to share with you some good news that I have not been able to share in any one of the four times that I've come here for this final wrap-up at MACO,...

Here's the good news: we have achieved together as a people over these last five months, not one, not two, not three, not four,... but five months in a row of positive job growth. (*Applause.*)

Let me share with you a little perspective on this. This is the first time in over four years that we have had five months in a row of positive job growth. It's approximately 40,000 new jobs, which is the best first half of the year that we've had in net new job creation since 1999. It is a rate of job growth -- get this -- over these last five months that is more than three times what the national rate of job growth has been over these last five months.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce says that we are one of the two best states for entrepreneurship and innovation.

Moody's, Fitch, and Standard and Poor's have given us -- one of only eight states -- a Triple A bond rating, which always makes Budget Secretary Eloise Foster smile. Come on, Eloise, smile. A Triple A bond rating, one of only eight, that's the gold standard in fiscal responsibility.

The Milken Institute says that our State, your State, our One Maryland, invests more in our human capital -- the education and the talents and the skills of our people -- and does a better job of it, than any other state in the country.

And in the midst of the toughest of times, we have been named not just once, but two years in a row, by Education Week magazine as having the best public schools in America. (*Applause.*)

And none of that, as you know, happened by accident, it was the product of choice. Choices made not with a view to the next election, but choices made with a view to the next generation. And those are the same choices we need to make now in order to continue to move forward.

I want to talk with you a little bit about the budget, about the picture and how we're looking at present.

In the past four years, you and I together have cut more in state spending than during any four year period in Maryland history. After General Fund spending had increased by 33 percent under our predecessor, we have reduced state spending by three percent over these last four years. It is a lower level -- and I believe the first time this has ever happened since the Great Depression -- that

our State spending is actually lower than it was four years ago. The size of our State government on a per capita basis is smaller than it's been at any time since 1973.

There's a few -- as we closed out this session, there's a few positive developments that have happened since then that is going to be of some help as we move forward.

Positive development number one: we anticipated closing with a General Fund reserve -- we don't call these surpluses, right -- a General Fund reserve of \$130 million. That General Fund reserve -- because of the job creation, which then led to revenues being up, means that we closed out last year with a General Fund reserve of now \$300 million. So that's a positive number. *(Applause.)*

We had no certainty that our Congress, even though we have a great Congressional delegation, led by Barbara Mikulski, Ben Cardin and Steny Hoyer, Elijah Cummings, Frank Kratovil, Donna Edwards, Chris Van Hollen, John Sarbanes, and Dutch Ruppersberger,... we had no guarantee that they were going to actually pass that extended Medicaid bill, but in point of fact, just two weeks ago they did pass it, so \$289 million is coming to us that that there was no guarantee of our receiving.

And also, our Congress and our President also passed an education jobs bill: \$179 million of unanticipated education aid is coming to us. So, all three of those are positive things.

We are in a position to rebound, recover and reinvigorate our economic engine, you already see it starting to happen. But we have a lot of tough choices ahead of us.

As we closed out the last legislative session we were looking at a gap, because of this recession, of about \$1.5 billion that we needed to close.

We hope that when the revenue estimates come out in September, we will continue to show improvement if we can continue to keep creating jobs.

We have to keep making right and difficult decisions to move forward. We have a range of options ahead of us. And I think one of the things that I love best about all of you who serve in local government is that you trust that the people that you serve are actually intelligent enough to figure out a way forward, if we're honest enough about the options ahead of us. And that's absolutely what we need to be as we move forward into the year ahead.

We're doing a couple of things. One, we have assembled a special commission on pensions; the cost of pensions, the responsibility for pensions, the sustainability of pensions, and we will absolutely have local government input and voice on that commission.

We want to reach a consensus, even as we emerge out of this recession and try to figure out what the new normal is, in terms of rate of economic growth and responsible, anticipated return on investments,... we need to figure out the range of options that are available to us so that we can fulfill our responsibilities and the promises made in a sustainable way.

And also moving forward, we have a blue ribbon commission that we assembled by statute on our transportation needs. There's some good news on the global horizon recently about how Germany's economy is stabilizing. Well, Germany invests probably 10 percent of their gross domestic product in infrastructure, transportation. We invest, as a nation, only about two percent. And we need to figure this out. We need to come to terms with it. It's certainly more than any one state can do by itself, but it's certainly a place where Maryland can and should lead and should be able to find a way forward. So we'll lay out the range of options before us on transportation as well.

I know one of the more painful cuts that we had to make in recent times was the highway user revenues. Through a very heavy-lifting special session, through two General Assembly sessions, through five rounds of Board of Public Works cuts, we were able to protect highway user revenues, even as we made very, very tough choices, including the elimination of some state jobs, and instituting mandatory, unpaid furloughs.

I know how painful though that these highway user revenue cuts have been to you and to most counties and your colleagues especially in our towns and our cities.

The fact that we were able to avoid cutting those for about seven different rounds of cuts, I hope is some of the clearest indication to you that it's my hope that as we come out of this recession, they will be some of the first cuts that we are able to start restoring, along with the furlough days to our state employees. I wish I could tell you when those dollars will be there that will allow us to do that, I can't. I don't have a crystal ball. But when that day comes I'm looking forward to joining with you and hopefully having some more positive news on that front.

JOBS, JOBS, JOBS

To move our State forward, we are advancing public-private partnerships and I encourage all of you to do the same thing. Maybe it's in sale or lease-back arrangements on school construction or other things of that nature.

We are creating 5,700 new jobs at the Port of Baltimore. One of the critical links to that innovation economy is engaging in the global economy. And, therefore -- and only because of the unique public-private partnership -- unique not only to our state, but the largest such deal concluded in the United States last year -- we're getting big investments, so that when those larger ships now pass through the Panama Canal, they won't pass by Maryland. We'll be able to

accommodate those larger ships and, more importantly, create 5,700 jobs in the process. Half of them are construction jobs, the other half are ongoing jobs.

Moving forward, we also have created in this last General Assembly session a new Hiring Tax Credit, \$5,000 for any company -- large, medium or small -- that hires a Marylander off the unemployment rolls and gets them back to work. So far 364 moms and dads have returned to work at family owned businesses and large businesses alike, because of that tax credit.

We have also created a Small Business Loan Guaranty fund, an idea brought to us by Christian Johansson, who I also note was named one of the 2010 Innovators of the Year. (*Applause.*) And one of those innovations was the Small Business Loan Guaranty to prime the pumps of small business lending on our main streets, a still critically important challenge and mission. So far we've done about \$6.4 million in loans that otherwise would not have happened had it not been for that loan guaranty. And we look forward to partnering with our Federal government, as soon as they pass the bill that allows us to expand that fund.

We are moving forward, not back, with more than 700 jobs this fiscal year being supported by our newly expanded -- and passed with your help -- Sustainable Communities Tax Credit. Nearly 9,300 jobs are being supported by the \$1.3 billion investment that we have made over these last four years in school construction. That's a record amount that we have invested in school construction, because we move forward and not back. (*Applause.*)

There are 60,000 jobs that are coming to our State because of the federal base realignment that Lieutenant Governor Anthony Brown has been deeply involved in since the first days of this Administration.

On top of those 60,000 jobs, there was an announcement very, very quietly a few weeks ago by NSA (which does everything very, very quietly), that there are 21,000 jobs that are going to be coming to your State as the cyber security demand is consolidated -- Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines, what the Navy calls their 10th Fleet, the cyber security assets. 21,000 jobs. And that's just the direct jobs, that's before we even get into the private contractors that will be serving that critically important and new security mission for our nation.

We have thousands of jobs that we are supporting because for the very first time we are approaching a record number of Minority Business Enterprise contracts awarded, in the middle of a recession.

MOVING MARYLAND FORWARD

Maryland's economy, presently and increasingly, is an innovation economy.

Innovation's primary ingredient is education; the education, the talents, the skills of our people. Not just K to 12, but for those critical middle skills, for the two years for the certifications or beyond for the four year skills.

I mentioned earlier that the Chamber of Commerce named us one of the top two best states for innovation and entrepreneurship. And together with all of you and the people that we serve and the investments and the commitments that we make, you're seeing the results in jobs across our State, advancing life sciences, high-tech, clean-tech, green-tech, bio-tech, information technology, cyber-security. Some of the strong forces of our economy are the forces that are going to be pulling our country into this future transformation.

This is a transformational time. Part of the pain we are feeling is because of that transformation. And in any transformation there is pain. It was true of the agricultural revolution, the industrial revolution, the information revolution,... but in that pain is also opportunity.

And there is no other State that is better equipped than ours to tap into that opportunity and that promise of the future. We have some unique set assets; some of the world's leading institutions of higher learning and science, healing and discovery, 58 Federal agencies with facilities, Fortune 500 companies, the highest concentration of PhD scientists and engineers in America, and one of America's most highly skilled and resilient workforces.

Because of our innovation economy in Maryland, we know that the investments that improve and protect the education of our children are investments that also expand economic opportunity. Education and economic opportunity go together like eggs and breakfast. We understand that and we understand that better than most states.

So in times when virtually every other state in the country is making record budget cuts and spending reductions, we have nonetheless been able to protect the very assets that are going to pull us out of this recession and make us stronger on the other side. That's what it's going to take.

When these waves of change come, we don't do our children any favors by running to the back of the wave. We have always been able to create a better future for our kids by going to the front of the wave, by catching that wave, by doing the hard work that moves us forward. And that's what we need to do today.

Get this, in these four years we have been able to increase by 65 percent the number of our high school kids that are taking science, technology, engineering, and math AP level courses in our high schools. What does that say about us? I think it says that we have a better future ahead of us.

CONCLUSION

Now, let me ask you this question that I ask all around our State: *“how many of you believe firmly that you enjoy a better quality of life than your parents and grandparents enjoyed?”*

Let me ask you this second question: *“how many of you believe just as firmly today that your children and grandchildren will enjoy that better life?”*

A little pause, right? A little hesitancy.

I tell you what, I’ve asked that question in some corners of our State and not a single hand goes up. But when I ask that question of younger people, every hand goes up.

We have a tremendous future ahead of us. There is not another State that is better equipped or better prepared to make this transformation than your State.

We all know that this is an election year. We all know that there will be other candidates making all sorts of promises over the next few months trying to tell people that we can *eat cake and lose weight* or anything else that they feel will get an applaud or a clap or a vote. There will be candidates that make, in fact, the very same promises that they couldn’t keep in easier times,... they’ll be making all of those same promises again.

I’ve chosen a different strategy and every year I’ve chosen to join with you and to level with you and speak with you honestly about our shared reality. I’ve chosen to call upon all of us to work together as a people, and I’m committed to continuing that work with you, if it should be the will of the people that we continue to serve.

I think we would all agree that the only way that we can move forward – and really what the people of our State deserve especially in tough times – is for all of us to be honest with one another. And to be honest about the options ahead of us.

None of the decisions over these last tough times have been easy decisions. The best days in life aren’t easy, they’re the hard ones when you make the right decisions that you know are going to lead to a better future.

And it’s because of that that we have been able to create 40,000 jobs, three times the national rate of job creation.

It’s because of that, that we are not putting thousands of teachers in unemployment lines like other states.

It's because of that that we have the #1 school system in America.

Together, we've driven violent crime down to its lowest level since 1975.

The waters of the Bay are cleaner than they've been at any time in the last six years. The blue crab population is rebounding better than any scientist would have predicted when we made those tough unpopular decisions three years ago, because even the blue crabs know that in Maryland, we move forward, not back! (*Laughter and applause.*)

And we're the only state to go four years in a row without a penny's increase in college tuition.

I leave you with something that was written by John Ferling, from his book about George Washington, The Ascent. And he said this about George Washington, and I quote, he said: "*Washington was not given to looking backward. He dwelled in the present with his eyes trained on the future.*"

For all of the tough budgetary choices we make and for all of the choices necessary in order to maintain fiscal responsibility and provide basic services and public safety, public education, environmental protection-- there is a more fundamental choice that's on the table this year in very stark terms. And it is the same choice that Washington faced at the beginning of this Republic.

The choice is this: it's whether we have the courage to dwell, to act, to hope and to create in the present, with our eyes trained on the future. Or whether we want to continue to embrace our fears and look over our shoulders and wallow in the pain of the past. Because we can either have our fears or we can have a better future for our kids, but we cannot have both. And it's time to decide. It is time to choose as One Maryland, acting in the present, with our eyes trained on the future, and moving forward together.

Thanks very, very much. (*Applause.*)



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UMBC Arts & Humanities Groundbreaking

September 17th, 2010

It's great to be here at UMBC – U.S. News & World Report's #1 Up-and-Coming National University! All together now, can we get a "Let's go Retrievers?!"

To all the students and faculty who are with us – today is about you. It's about your moms and your dads and your sisters and brothers too. It's about building a stronger future and helping you reach your dreams in the present,...awakening new possibilities to compose a life that matters.

And it's about our mission as a State to create jobs, to save jobs, and to lay the groundwork for even greater job growth, job retention, and expanded opportunity for all.

It's about moving forward rather than slipping back,... and it's about our best days which are still ahead of us, if we choose in our own here and now to invest in the best asset we have for creating and saving jobs, and restoring, refreshing, reinvigorating, and retooling our economy: you. Your talents, your skills, your education, and – yes – your creativity.

Forward, Together

We're going to be able to use this facility to help UMBC build its national reputation – attracting great scholars and helping students expand the limits of their imagination and potential. And it's going to help us create jobs in our State both today and tomorrow.

The construction of this facility will create 326 full-time jobs – and as a LEED certified facility, it will allow UMBC to get more out of every dollar we invest, while also helping our planet. It's all connected.

The fact that this facility will be the biggest building on UMBC's campus says something about all of us. It says that the humanities matter. It says that the arts matter. It says that our people matter and that the greatest of freedom's privileges is the freedom to choose a stronger future.

The arts, humanities, and the STEM disciplines of science, technology, engineering and math are all connected,... they're connected to each other, to jobs and greater

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job creation, and to a new prosperity. When a painter divides the space on a canvas, when a musician studies meter and rhythm, when an English major studies the great works of literature – it brings us closer to the future we aspire to.

To reach our greatest job creating potential, we've chosen – alone among the fifty states — to freeze in-state tuition at UMBC and our other state colleges and universities for not one, not two, not three, but four years in a row.

We've chosen to increase our investment in Baltimore County public school construction by 80%.

And we've chosen to invest \$40 million in this new facility – even in the toughest of times.

Conclusion

The way to get through tough times like these is to pick ourselves up off the mat and punch forward,... and that's what we're doing together. With 40,000 jobs we've created in Maryland since January at more than three times national growth, we're moving forward,... with America's #1 public schools so says Education Week magazine for two years in a row, we're racing to the top,... with the lowest violent crime rate since 1975, we're rising.

It's been said that "there is an instinct in us for newness, for renewal, for a liberation of creative power,..." We are going through a great period of renewal in Maryland – recovering stronger and faster than other States. And by unlocking the power and potential of our creativity we can reaffirm that sense in our heart that our best days are still ahead of us.

Our best days are ahead of us, and as One Maryland, we move forward,... together.



Tags: [creativity](#), [education](#), [humanities](#), [state colleges](#), [UMBC](#)

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Maryland Workers Compensation Education Association

September 21st, 2010

Thanks for the opportunity to join you here today,... President Jagielski, thank you for your leadership.

Our Workers Compensation program in Maryland is among the strongest in the nation – and I want to thank you for everything you do to continue strengthening it, so that we're able to get our fellow Marylanders the care that they need – and so we can get them back to work quickly.

In the O'Malley-Brown Administration we're old fashioned. We believe your government ought to work for your tax dollars. And with a government that works, we are usually able to get a hearing within 50 days of a workers compensation claim – that's good for businesses and good for our fellow citizens as well.

Our system is, in many ways, the envy of the rest of the nation. That makes it a good metaphor for our State – where we're recovering stronger and faster than other states, growing at twice the national rate this year.

There is no more powerful place in our State than a family's home and nothing more important for protecting that home than a job. And in Maryland, we've held on to our jobs better than all but four other states. This year we've created 33,200 new jobs, including 4,500 construction jobs – our best start to the year since 2000.

I don't want to take too much of your time, but I did want to share a just a few thoughts about our economy, jobs, and our efforts to lower health care costs while improving the quality of care in our State.

Maryland's Economy

None of us have a crystal ball and none of us know for certain when these tough times we're going through not only as a State, but as a country – and really as a planet – will finally end. But what we do know is that because of the tough choices we're making together, we're better positioned than other states to rebound, refresh, recover, and return to prosperity.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce says that we're one of two best states for innovation and entrepreneurship. Moody's, Fitch, and Standard and Poor's certify

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our Triple A bond rating – a seal of fiscal responsibility earned by only 8 states and we're one of them. And for the second year in a row, Education Week magazine says that we have America's #1 best public schools.

To continue moving forward, our focus is on creating jobs, saving jobs, and improving the conditions that allow businesses to create and save jobs.

With our new Hiring Tax Credit, we're providing a \$5,000 credit for any business large, medium or small that hires a Marylander off unemployment roles.

To prime the pump of small business lending we've created a Small Business Loan Guaranty fund which thus far has guaranteed \$6.4 million in loans that otherwise would not have happened.

And as we fight to create and save construction jobs, we're supporting 9,300 jobs through the \$1.3 billion investment we're making in school construction. Across the board, each year of our Administration, we've supported and are supporting an estimated 20,000 jobs with the capital investments we're choosing to make together – even as we've cut \$5.6 billion in state spending, the largest reduction of any four year period in our State's history.

If you look around our State at what we have in terms of the talents and creativity of our people – and where we sit at the epicenter of science, security, healing, and innovation –there is not another place anywhere in our country better poised to take advantages of the challenges that confront us to make them the job opportunities of today and tomorrow.

Lowering Health Care Costs While Improving care

We've created a Health Quality and Cost Council, and I've asked them to put a priority on finding ways to contain and reduce health care costs in our State. We have a unique set of assets in Maryland. As the home of some of the world's leading hospitals and experts in the medical profession, we believe that the talent exists in our State to make it happen.

All of us would agree that in order to reach our greatest potential for job creation and economic growth and prosperity, it's critically important that we find ways to reduce health care costs while improving the quality of care.

That's why we've chosen, even in the toughest of times, to be one of the first states to assist small businesses with purchasing care for their employees.

One of the ways we believe we can lower costs is by making better use of technology through so-called "Health IT." It's our goal to have the nation's best health information exchange by 2012.

Another is by cracking down on fraud – and through the False Claims Act I signed this year, we protect we'll be able to recover \$46.5 million for taxpayers.

Conclusion

We have some big choices to make as a State and they all come down to one question – do we move forward or do we slip back?

I believe that the best politics is the politics of telling the truth and making government work better. The truth of the matter is that we've had to make a lot of tough choices during these past four years – but they don't compare to the tough choices moms and dads make around their kitchen tables everyday, struggling how to afford this month's mortgage or last month's rent.

Continuing to move forward and recover stronger is a battle. As a great American once said, "the future is not a gift: it is an achievement." We can't win by retreating back. We have to march forward, together. I believe our best days are still ahead of us – if we choose together to move forward. We can have a better future or we can have our fears, but we can't have both. Thank you very much.



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Tags: [False Claims Act I](#), [health care](#), [Hiring Tax Credit](#), [job creation](#), [Workers Compensation program](#)

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Howard County Tourism Annual Meeting

September 23rd, 2010

Ellicott City, MD

As Prepared for Delivery

It is great to be here in Howard County and Ellicott City – one of Money Magazine's two best places to live in the United States of America! Home of America's very first railroad station – and important stops along the Historic National Road, the "Road that Built the Nation" which marks its 200th anniversary next year.

County Executive Ulman thank you for fighting the good fight to move Maryland forward. It's great to join my colleges Senator Robey, Delegate Guzzone, and Delegate Pendergrass – along with our colleagues in county government who are with us. President Barbera, Vice President Clark – thank you for your work to create jobs and spur economic growth in Howard County.

Your work is work that is moving Maryland forward – and I want to thank you for the hard work you do every day to show off and promote all that is great about our State. You are a big part of the reason that we're recovering faster and rebounding stronger than other States.

Why do I say that? I'll give you 17,000 reasons! Together, we've created 17,000 net leisure and hospitality jobs in Maryland between August 2009 and August 2010! Looking just at this year, through August we grew 3.3 percent in Maryland while the national leisure and tourism sector declined (-6.1%).

Last year Pennsylvania didn't increase the number of visitors they attracted to their state. Not to rub it in, but neither did Virginia. West Virginia? They didn't increase the number of visitors either. Delaware? Nope.

But in Maryland with your leadership and hard work we were able to attract 1 million more visitors to our State and I think that's worth a round of applause for everyone in this room who worked so hard to make this happen! 29 million visitors, an increase over 28 million in the year before!

And so far this year demand for Maryland lodging is up by 9 percent – 2 percentage points higher than the national growth in demand for lodging. In Howard County,

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demand is up 11.2 percent – 4 points higher than national growth!

Here in Howard County, tourism businesses employ 10,000 Marylanders and generate \$780 million in economic activity. This county is a great example of why Maryland is such a great place to visit. It's a county where history comes alive. A great place for the arts. A great place for entertainment. A great place for recreation.

We are moving forward and you're a big part of it. I wanted to share a few brief words about our shared challenges and opportunities – which are often are one in the same – and about the reality that all of us face together. And also about the most important imperative that we have right now and it can all be summed up in one word with four letters — and that is “jobs.”

Creating Jobs, Strengthening Maryland Tourism

Because of the beliefs we share, we know that there is there is no more powerful place in our State than a family's home and nothing more important for protecting that home than a job.

Your fight in business, and our fight in state government is the fight to create jobs, to save jobs, and to improve the conditions that allow businesses to create and save jobs.

While there will continue to be peaks and valleys as we fight our way out of the national economic crisis, if you compare Maryland to virtually any other state, we're recovering faster, and we're rebounding stronger. How much stronger and faster? Since January we've been growing at twice the national growth rate – gaining more jobs than at this point in any year since 2000, 33,200 on the year.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce says we're one of the two best states for innovation and entrepreneurship. Moody's, Fitch, and Standard and Poor's affirm our Triple A bond rating – a seal of fiscal responsibility earned by only 8 states, and we're one of them. And for the second year in a row – because we've chosen together to make record investments in our kids' schools – Education Week magazine says our schools in Maryland are the #1 best in the country.

To move forward, we must continue creating and saving jobs. More than 95 percent of Maryland's tourism-related businesses are small businesses – and to help small business in our State by priming the pump of lending, we created a Small Business Loan Guaranty fund, which thus far has guaranteed \$6.4 million in loans that otherwise would not have happened,...

And to help businesses put Marylanders back to work, we created a new Hiring Tax Credit: \$5,000 for any businesses, large, medium, or small that hires a Marylander off unemployment roles.

To support your efforts in growing our leisure and tourism sector, we've launched an array of marketing campaigns and initiatives.

One such initiative is a new interactive travel map – attempting to capitalize on the emerging reality that more and more families are using the internet to plan their trips. We call it the Visit Maryland Interactive Map. It details many of the state's tourism marketing initiatives such as the byways, and upcoming historical commemorations.

It's available to all online at www.visitmaryland.org.

Another new initiative, we call Maryland Green Travel. It's a self-certification program that gives businesses the chance to showcase their efforts to go green – and to be promoted as part of our State's marketing efforts to environmentally-conscious travelers. The Hotel here at Turf Valley was one of the first to sign on.

We have a number of big historic anniversaries on the horizon, all of which will present new opportunities for you our tourism sector. In 2011 we begin the commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. In 2012, Maryland will be the centerpiece of the nation's multiyear celebration of all things Star-Spangled – including the anniversary of the War of 1812. In 2013, we'll mark the 100th anniversary of the passing of one of our State's great heroes, Harriet Tubman. In 2014 we will mark the anniversary of the Battle of Fort McHenry.

Conclusion

Thank you again for the opportunity to join you here, and for your hard work to move Maryland forward.

I leave you with the question I opened with: do we move forward or do we slip back?

Continuing to move forward and recover stronger is a battle. As a great American once said, "the future is not a gift: it is an achievement." We can't win by retreating back. We have to march forward, together.

We still have challenges ahead of us, but we are moving forward.

I believe our best days are still ahead of us – if we choose together to move forward. We can have a better future or we can have our fears, but we can't have both.

Thank you very much.



Tags: [howard county](#), [tourism](#), [Visit Maryland](#)

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SAIC Cyber Innovation Center Grand Opening

September 27th, 2010

As Prepared for Delivery

Today is a great example of why I am so excited about our future here in Maryland. If you look around our State at what we have in terms of the talents and creativity of our people – and where we sit at the epicenter of science, security, healing, and innovation, there is not another place anywhere in our country better poised to take advantages of the challenges that confront us and make them the job opportunities of today and tomorrow.

Cyber security and defense is one of our nation's greatest emerging challenges – and it also happens to be one of our greatest competitive strengths here in Maryland. We have emerged strong as the national epicenter of cyber security – and you don't just have to take the word of your State's braggadocios governor for that. The federal government selected Maryland to be the home of the new Joint Cyber Command.

Creating Jobs, Advancing Innovation

We are in a battle in these times of tremendous global challenges. It's a battle that requires us to step up our nation's cyber defenses. And it's a battle which calls us to create jobs and strengthen our economic future.

There is no more powerful place in our State than a family's home and nothing more important for protecting that home than a job. This is therefore a battle for our children's future. And there will be states that win and states that lose. We can't win by retreating back. We can only win by marching forward – creating and saving jobs, improving education and public safety and our quality of life.

Because of the tough choices we're making together, our State is winning this battle. We are recovering faster and rebounding stronger than other states – and this year we're growing by twice the national growth rate, creating 33,200 jobs for our best start to the year since 2000. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce says that we're one of the two best states of innovation and entrepreneurship. Moody's, Fitch, and Standard and Poor's certify our Triple A bond rating – a seal of fiscal responsibility earned by only 8 states and we're one of them. And Education Week magazine says

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that for the second year in a row we've built America's #1 best public schools.

Maryland's economy is an innovation economy. It's our job in your state government to help our businesses large and small harness the power of innovation to create and save Maryland jobs. And it's our job as a people to invest in our greatest competitive asset – one another.

Together, we've launched workforce training initiatives in the cyber security field. We're investing in cyber security curriculum development. And even in the toughest of times – even as we've cut \$5.6 billion in state spending, which is more than any four-year period in our history – we are choosing together to make record investments in our public schools.

We're choosing together to make an historic \$1.3 billion investment in school construction. We're choosing together to reinvigorate education in the STEM disciplines of science, technology, engineering and math. And alone among the 50 states we've chosen to freeze tuition at our in-state colleges and universities for not one, not two, not three, but four years in a row.

Conclusion

Our best days are still ahead of us, but we must choose to work together in our own times to make it so.

Together with forward looking companies like SAIC we move forward!

Thank you and congratulations.



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Tags: [Cyber Innovation Center](#), [cyber security](#), [innovation](#), [SAIC](#)

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Druid Hill Park 150th Anniversary Gala

October 15th, 2010

Baltimore, MD

As Prepared for Delivery

Happy Anniversary Druid Hill Park! 150 years young!

We are all here today, because someday 150 years from now, we hope that a similar gathering of people will come to this place to mark the 300th anniversary of Druid Hill Park. I'm sure the food won't be quite as good. But it's our hope and belief that through the tough choices we make together in our own here and now, we can protect and preserve this beautiful place – and places like it in every part of our State – so they are there for future generations to enjoy and protect for their own children and grandchildren.

Our greatness as Marylanders – as a people – flows from the strength of our diversity and the beliefs we share. A belief in the dignity of every individual. A belief in our shared responsibility to advance the greater good. And our belief that one person can make a difference, all of us must try, and God loves even the partial victories.

Emerson wrote that "character is nature in the highest form." Tonight we're reminded that the inverse is also true. That the natural treasures of Druid Hill Park contribute so much to the greatness of character in the Greatest City in America.

This park, our City's first large municipal park and second oldest public park, is one of our City's great jewels.

And so too are the Friends of Druid Hill Park who come together and volunteer your time and your energy because you "believe." Because you care about keeping it clean and beautiful and you care about preserving the historic heritage.

You're what having a stronger State is all about.

I have a proclamation to present in a moment – and I don't want to take too much of your time – but I did want to briefly share some good news with good people.

This year, our State is growing twice as fast as the rest of the nation. We've created 33,200 jobs, and that's our best start to the year since 2000.

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In the battle for our children's future – a battle that some states will win and some states will lose – here in Maryland we're winning. We're winning because with a government that works and fights for you, we're making tough choices. But in order to keep winning we have to choose to move forward by creating jobs, saving jobs, and protecting the priorities that move us forward: public safety, public education and our quality of life – things like preserving open space and protecting our land, water, and air.

You and I believe that the greatest of freedom's privileges is the freedom we have to choose a better future for future generations. And that's why even in the toughest of times, we've increased to more than 31,000, the acres of parks and lands we protect.

A couple decades after the birth of Druid Hill Park, the playwright Chekov wrote in Uncle Vanya that, quote:

"Man is endowed with reason and the power to create,... but until now he has not created, but demolished. The forests are disappearing, the rivers are running dry, the game is exterminated, the climate is spoiled, and the earth becomes poorer and uglier every day... But when I pass peasant-forests that I have preserved from the axe, or hear the rustling of the young plantations set out with my own hands, I feel as if I had some small share in improving the climate, and that if mankind is happy a thousand years from now, I will have been a little responsible for their happiness."

We are here today because we care about tomorrow. These are not easy times. But the great thing about Marylanders is that in times of adversity we don't make excuses. We make progress. We choose to move forward to both better today's and better tomorrow's.

We fight for jobs today and we choose to invest in priorities like education and protecting open space, because we know that's how we build a better tomorrow.

Because when faced with the choice between moving forward or slipping back, as Marylanders we always choose to move forward.

I have a proclamation to present,...



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SSA Transit-Oriented Development Announcement

October 19th, 2010

Woodlawn, MD

Thank you all very much,... Today is a great example of progress that moves Maryland forward – forward, with a government that works and fights for us.

I especially want to thank everyone with the SSA for your commitment to Baltimore and to Maryland, and to the goals we share for growing smarter and more sustainably. This is the largest single office lease ever in the history of our City.

I particularly want to thank you for the 500 Maryland construction jobs this project will support!

I also want to congratulate everyone with Chevy Chase's own JBG companies. And congratulations to my good friends Michael Klein and Daniel Klein and everyone with Klein Enterprises – it's great to have you as part of this project.

We're in a battle for our kids future. There will be states that win and states that lose. For Maryland to win, we must move forward – creating and saving jobs, improving education and public safety and our quality of life,... and to do this we need a government that works and fights for us.

Growing Smarter, Moving Forward

There is perhaps no better example of the connections that move us forward as a State and a country than initiatives like this one that create jobs and allow us to grow smarter.

This project will support 500 of construction jobs – and as its 36 acres continue to be transformed into a green transit community, it will support many, many more. It will have direct access to the METRO station, which is great for the more than one thousand workers who will be employed here. What's more, it's great for reducing traffic congestion, and therefore great for our planet as well.

We fought for and won legislation to advance Transit Oriented Development because we believe in its potential for creating jobs, building stronger communities, advancing green building and innovation, reducing pollution, and improving our

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quality of life.

Across our State, there is enough underutilized land within a half mile of our State's 112 transit stations to theoretically absorb the new residents Maryland is expected to gain in the next two decades – all 1.1 million of them.

Growing smarter is and was a priority for our Administration when we led the charge for nation-leading legislation that promotes transit-oriented development; it was a priority last year when I signed an Executive Order to move the ball forward, it's a priority today; and it will be a priority these next four years as well.

Conclusion

The federal GSA has been a great partner in our work to move forward with smarter growth – and up next, David H. Ehrenwerth, Regional Administrator, would like to share a few words.



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Tags: [green development](#), [green jobs](#), [sustainability](#)

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Committee for Montgomery

December 13th, 2010

North Bethesda, MD

As Delivered

County Executive Leggett, thank you very, very much. It's good to see all of you bright and early here in Montgomery County, land of my bread and buttering, lest I ever forget it. (Laughter.)

Happy Holidays. It's great to come home to Montgomery County. (Applause.)

It's also a pleasure to be here with Senator Cardin, who is doing very important work, especially in these times, in the halls of Congress. I also want to thank Donna Edwards, who represents a big chunk of Montgomery County. And Congressman Chris Van Hollen for all of his support and leadership in the halls of Congress and throughout our country.

The times ahead won't be easy, but I will challenge you to find another state anywhere in the United States that has a higher quality of representatives in the halls of Congress than the State of Maryland does. (Applause.)

Recently you've re-inaugurated — can we say re-inaugurated? Inaugurated for a second term one of the outstanding county executives in America, Ike Leggett. Because of his leadership, because of his effectiveness, Montgomery County is coming through these difficult times in much stronger shape than virtually any other county in the United States. And that sort of leadership is not a matter of accident or chance. It's the product of choices. And they're the tough choices that Ike Leggett has made every single day. So, Ike, thank you. (Applause.)

I also want to thank all of the other representatives that you send to our Legislature. So many of them are here. And I also congratulate President Valerie Ervin and all the council members, (Applause.) and the mayors who are with us, as well as Charles Washington and everyone with the Committee for Montgomery.

I was listening to the comptroller's words on my way in and I thank him for all of his leadership, also from Montgomery County. In fact, at the Board of Public Works — you have three Montgomery County natives for the first time at the Board of Public Works. And not only Peter Franchot and myself, but also Nancy Kopp. (Applause.)

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And I could tell by your reaction to the comptroller's declaration of a moratorium on any new taxes that it's pretty clear that in Montgomery County, just as in the rest of the State, that people are united in their desire for more services, better transit and infrastructure and lower taxes and we don't care how much it costs.

It's the way we're living, right? I mean, if these things were simple, there'd be no reason for us to go to the polls every couple years and cast votes. We all want more, we all want to pay less for it, we all want a better quality of life, we'd all like to be able to eat cake and lose weight. But at the same time, we know that's not the way the world works.

So what we're going to have to do is continue to make the tough choices. Mindful not only of what we're doing for today and tomorrow, but what we're doing for next year and the next ten years. Not only for the impact that those choices have on this generation of Marylanders, but the impact that it has on the next. And perhaps, by the product of our choices and by the success of our journey, maybe we might even be able to do a tremendous service to our country. Especially at this time when one of the things that unites America is the fear of decline.

Forward with Montgomery County

There's an old joke about a guy who asks the cab driver for directions in New York City,... he says: "How do you get to Carnegie Hall?" And the cab driver, as you know, tells him: "Practice, practice, practice."

There are no short cuts to Carnegie Hall and there are no short cuts to better economic days, but we know how to get there. And we know that getting there requires choices, choices, choices.

Choices that spur innovation, choices that promote educational achievement, because the more a person learns, the more a person earns. Choices that promote the creative capacity of our people — from the earliest of preschool grades through the labs of the research institutions with which we are so very blessed in this State. Choices that help us create and to save jobs and especially in the new economy. Choices that position us to transition into this new economy stronger and without leaving any of our families behind.

Make no mistake about it, we are in a fight. It is a fight for our children's future, it is a fight for our economic future. Not only as a State, not only as a county. It's a fight to transition to this new economy with more opportunities for all. And in this fight there are going to be some states that win and there are going to be some states that lose.

And for Maryland to be one of those states that wins and shows other states the road ahead, we must move forward by creating jobs through innovation, by saving jobs and protecting public safety, public education and our very quality of life.

In order to do any one of those things, you have to do all of those things. And you must do them all with fiscal responsibility. Not an easy task.

Anyone can balance a budget. But balancing a budget while protecting the most vulnerable among us, balancing a budget while protecting our competitive strengths, balancing a budget while investing in our innovative capacity in order to create and

save jobs — that's hard. And that's the task that we have ahead of us as a people.

You know, as I was talking, I was kind of chuckling to myself because being bi-metropolitan, I understand not only the strengths of the jurisdictions in the Washington area, the strengths of those in the Baltimore area, but I also understand the sense of not being appreciated that each state brings to the table.

Now, the County Executive did a very good job of recapping the sense of not being appreciated that I have heard since I was a little boy in Rockville, Maryland. And that is the sense that we're under-appreciated because of the wealth of Montgomery County and the State treats us like an ATM.

"And nothing ever comes here, you know, not a 74 percent increase in school construction, not a huge increase in school operating funding. The ICC would never, ever come to Montgomery County. No other place in Maryland would ever care about the Purple Line, mass transit or Metro." I understand that.

And then, just around the bend, in Prince George's County, another jurisdiction where you're separated by a prominent metropolitan area and the same beltway, is the sense that we're not appreciated here. The reason we're not appreciated here is because "we always vote loyally and we always vote in big numbers and, therefore, we're not appreciated here."

And then you go up north and in Baltimore City — people in Baltimore City say, "you know what, the Governors of Maryland never appreciate us. The reason they don't? Because we're poor. We never get the campaigns. There's a lot of us in Baltimore City who are poor, that they take us for granted, they don't care about us, that we're loyal and we're poor, and the Governor doesn't care about us."

And then when you go outside of Baltimore City and into Baltimore County — and I know from having grown up here that it's a lot closer to drive from Baltimore to Washington than it is to drive from Washington to Baltimore — (Laughter) — but in Baltimore County there is a sense that, "you know what, the Governors of Maryland don't appreciate us. The reason they don't appreciate us is they could never count on our votes, we swing back and forth, from one election to another and, therefore, nothing ever comes to Baltimore County."

I recognize all of those, that sense of not being appreciated. But, look, we're all in this together. We are One Maryland and we are all in this together.

And in this fight, though, Montgomery County has a unique and critically important leadership role to play. You are a global hub of innovation. You are leading in science, leading in security, leading in health, leading in discovery, leading in information technology, all the sectors that hold promise, not only for our State's ability to renew our economy, to create jobs, but also they are all the things that hold within them the ability of the United States of America to once again be a resurgent republic. Not only because we've sent smart weapons against our enemies halfway around the world, but because of the cures that we unleash from places like NIH and labs throughout the I-270 technology and bioscience corridor.

It's our role in State Government to help your county advance innovation and job creation. And part of that job creation infrastructure, of course, is public transit, which matters to our quality of life and also the quality of the land, the air, the water

that we enjoy and that exists in a finite amount.

To strike a more sustainable balance between roads and public transit, we are moving forward with the locally-preferred option for the Purple Line light rail. And with your help, it's being built. (Applause.)

We're going to continue to invest in the greatest asset we have in an Innovation Economy, and that is the talents, the skills, the educational achievement levels of our children. That's why in the toughest of times, we increased school construction funding to Montgomery County by 74 percent. That's a record over four years and a record increase.

And alone among the 50 states, as One Maryland, together you and I were able to freeze college tuition,... To make investments in tough times to make up for what otherwise would have been a tuition increase. We're the only state in America that for four years in a row has frozen tuition so that our kids didn't pay another penny in college tuition. (Applause.)

You can always tell where the people are with kids that are about to enter college. (Laughter.)

Making the New Economy Ours

We have emerging sectors of our economy that hold so much promise.

It's our priority to strengthen our emerging cyber security sector through an initiative we call CyberMaryland. They're never going to off-shore the cyber security jobs, that diverse, talented smart men and women from cultures all over the globe come together around, at the National Security Administration. Those jobs aren't going someplace else. There are 20,000 more jobs being created there, because of the Joint Cyber Command, an announcement that was made with a whisper, as NSA tends to announce big things, on a Friday afternoon.

And we're also strengthening our green-tech and clean-tech sectors, as we move forward toward our goal of creating, saving, and placing our fellow citizens in 100,000 green jobs. You see it happening all around in green buildings that are popping up in all parts of Montgomery County.

We continue to lead other states in our support for life sciences. In the toughest of times, we moved from fourth place ranking with the Milken Institute of life science, biotech, and economy in 50 states, to second. And we can continue to excel and be the leader.

That's why we did things in tough times that other states weren't able to do, like actually increasing our biotechnology tax credit, extending our R&D credit.

We created the Hiring Tax Credit, the Small Business Loan Guaranty Fund, to get the pumps of small business lending primed again on Maryland's main streets.

And in this upcoming session I really need your help, for those of you that are in that innovation sphere, with something we are calling InvestMaryland. It's an idea that actually percolated up from our State legislature. We would allow companies, big entities, insurance companies, to forward pay at a discount their tax liability. And

then we take that \$100 million and invest it with a venture capital that is in such short supply, but which we know can expand jobs and create job creation, especially in life science, biotech and other emerging areas.

Because of the tough choices we've made together over these last four years, we are recovering stronger and faster than most other states as we transition to this new economy.

Since January, together, Maryland has created 40,600 jobs. It is a rate of job creation that is the best rate of job creation that we've had as a State since the year 2000. And it is a rate of job creation that is twice the national rate of job creation. (Applause.)

We are one of only eight states that still defends a Triple A bond rating. And the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, hardly a mouthpiece for the O'Malley/Brown administration or any other administration — but the U.S. Chamber of Commerce says that your State, our State, that Maryland is the second-best state in the country for innovation and entrepreneurship.

The Kauffman Index on the new economy ranks us third.

And Education Week magazine two years in a row — but we still have a lot of room for improvement — Education Week magazine listed us two years in a row as having the best public schools of the 50 states in America.

I see Cliff Kendall out there. University of Maryland — even with holding the line on college tuition to make college more affordable — is ranked one of the top ten best value public institutions in the United States of America.

I rattled those things all off, not by any means to tell you that we're out of the woods. We're not out of the woods. But I think they should give all of us reason to believe that we will come out of these woods sooner than other states. We might even come out with a stronger competitive advantage compared to other states, as our nation squares her shoulders for the big task of not being out-competed by China, India and the other forces that are on this global stage.

Tough Choices

For every choice that we've made over these last four years and the choices ahead, Lt. Governor Anthony Brown and I have always asked the question: "What does this mean — what does this mean in the most important place in our State? What does it mean at the most important power center in our State, the kitchen table, for the families of Montgomery, Prince George's, Baltimore City and every other county."

Look, there's no way around the difficulty of the upcoming fiscal year. I've seen some recently-elected Governors in other states talking very disparagingly about the Recovery and Reinvestment Act and the important courageous investments that our President and some of our Congressional members with your votes were able to protect over these last two years.

Thank goodness they had the courage to do what they did at a time when it was politically unpopular, but it was very important to America's competitive strengths

and ability to come out of this recession.

We're able because of those dollars to do a much better job of protecting education, protecting the health of our people than otherwise we would have. Especially given the contraction that's happened in all your businesses, right?

You know, you try to go get a loan now and they look at cash flow over the last two years — hasn't been a lot of cash flow over the last two years. And the same is true — because it's reflected in your revenues.

There's no way around the difficulty of the upcoming fiscal year. The only way I know to deal with this is by being open and being honest about the choices that we face. And this is going to require sacrifice from all of us.

The very best that we will be able to do for a great many very worthy, top priority areas is to defend them by level funding them. That's the best we're going to be able to do.

For others, we are going to — the best that we'll be able to do is to minimize the cuts that will have to be endured for the next couple of years until the economic growth starts to bring our revenues up to a much more sustainable new normal.

As I say all of those things, none of these difficulties and none of these sacrifices can be allowed to deter us from pointing to the true north that is our economic future, that is the better future that we prefer for our children.

Some of the toughest and most important choices that we'll make during the session will also be choices that allow us to save our State pension system. Not only with regard to teachers, but with other state employees. We owe it to our police, to our teachers, to our children, to all taxpayers to find a more sustainable way forward, so that people won't have to go to work in fear that the rug is going to be pulled out from under them through no fault of their own when it's time for them to retire.

These are not easy choices. There is no state that's at a point where these choices are behind them. All of the states are facing these challenges. But the thing I admire most about all of you and about your neighbors in our State, is that when we face times of great adversity, we don't make excuses, we make progress. That's who we are and that's what we have always done.

And we know that we would be facing even more painful choices had we not chosen a fiscally responsible path every step of the way. Cutting our State Government by \$5.6 billion, reducing the size of government.

You know, the size of our State and local government bureaucracy in Maryland — fun factoid to take away from today's breakfast — actually ranked eighth from the smallest among the 50 states. Eight from the smallest among the 50 states.

There are things that we do in excess of the other states, like investing in higher education for affordable college. Like investing in the best public schools in America. And there's a business reason why we do those things. It's a business reason that you see justified and played out in a raised job creation this year that is one of the top three of any of the 50 states in the United States.

So there will be more cuts, there will be more sacrifice. But what we will not do is

abandon our families or abandon our future or let our state be relegated to second tier status when we're in this urgent fight for a better economic future for our kids.

And what we won't do is diminish the dignity that each of us holds for our neighbors, the dignity of every individual.

Conclusion

I want to mention to you as I close, this great column by EJ Dionne in the Washington Post this morning. And I wanted to read just a few paragraphs to you:

He writes: "Fear of decline is an old American story. Declinism ran rampant in the late 1970s and early '80s. Stagflation, the Iranian hostage crisis, anxiety over Japan's bid for economic dominance and the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan all seemed to be symbols of a United States no longer in control of its destiny."

He goes on: "The current declinist sentiment arises from a widespread sense that in the first decade of the new millennium, our country squandered its international advantages, degraded its power with a long and unnecessary engagement in Iraq, wrecked the federal government's finances – and then saw its economy devastated by the worst financial crisis in 80 years. All this happened as China especially but also India began to challenge American preeminence. Americans feel something is badly wrong, and they are fully justified in their alarm."

All of that having been said, I remain very optimistic about our future. And if you look around at the assets that we have in our State, you'll see that there is not a state that is better positioned, better prepared, better equipped to make this turn into a new economy. If you consider the talents and creativity of our people – and that we sit at the epicenter of science, healing, security, innovation, discovery (especially here in Montgomery County) – there's not another place in the country better prepared to take advantage of these obvious challenges and turn them into opportunities.

It is great work that we are about to embark on in these next four years together, I think. It's work on which the future of our state depends. It's work that the next generation is urgently watching. And it is work that our country needs us to succeed at, especially now.

Thanks very, very much. (Applause.)



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Joint Commission Assembly

December 13th, 2010

Baltimore, MD

As Delivered

Thank you very, very much. You all didn't need to stand up. We're all friends here.

I want to thank you for giving up your time all through not only this year, as I look around this room I see people that have been giving of their time for many, many years. And certainly from the very beginning of the O'Malley/Brown administration.

So thank you all not only for taking the time to spend the entire day—most of the day—here today, but also for what you've done over the last four years.

I want to thank Lt. Governor Brown, who I truly believe by any objective measure has been the most effective Lieutenant Governor in America over the last four years.

And why do I say that? Because he wanted to work on three things – economic development, higher education, and health care. On economic development our State this year, even though we've come through a recession, the BRAC jobs never stopped coming and we have now this year had the best year of new job creation that we've had since the year 2000. We rank third among the 50 states so far.

Second, we're the only state in America to not only move up in the rankings of excellence in terms of our public universities from four years ago, we are also the only one to go four years in a row without a penny's increase in college tuition.

And finally—and I underscore this for our distinguished representatives here from President Obama's administration—the other issue that Lt. Governor Brown wanted to work on from the first day of this administration four years ago was rolling up our sleeves and finding the solutions to the challenge of health care so we could extend more coverage to more people. And by God, now the whole country is going to get coverage.

Who knew? But I want to thank the other members of your administration who are with us today – Secretary of State John McDonough, Secretary of Appointments Jeanne Hitchcock, our Director of Minority Business Development Luwanda Jenkins, I know that the title is really Minority Affairs, but I prefer Business

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Development to affairs. Also Delegate Dana Stein is with us. And our Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Ed Chow, is with us. Our Baltimore City Service Officer Vu Dang is here. Our Secretary of Labor, Licensing and Regulation Alexander Sanchez is here with us today as well.

And I also want to thank Patrick Corvington. That was a great story. In fact, I thought you were going someplace—I thought you were going to tell me that you worked here for the Casey Foundation. You did that, too. But instead you talked about Patterson Park, where you took the oath of allegiance to the United States.

It was over that very ridge in Patterson Park—and all these folks know this story, so don't tell him the punch line—that the Mayor of Baltimore in 1814 dug trenches with the people of Baltimore, 60 percent of them African American—actually 1 out of 5 of them were African American and 60 percent of them immigrants—in order to defend the city from being burned to the ground by the approaching British army that was coming over by land from that direction.

So that's a great place. Come back for the full tour, we'll be here all week.

And also I want to thank—I understand Paul Montero was here earlier. Paul took the early train back to Washington? All right. Well, he, I know, deals with all sorts of faith outreach and those things, so we'll pray for his safe arrival back in D.C., but let him know we called out his name as well.

What a welcome relief it is to work with an administration that returns your phone calls, that wants to make government work for the sake of advancing the greater good. Katie and I had occasion to go down to one of the receptions at the White House the other day. We got all dressed up and, boy, it feels so good to go to that house now.

Now I know—full disclosure, Mr. Corvington—this is not a partisan group. I'm sure we have Democrats and Republicans alike in this group. But these are my ten minutes.

It really feels good to go down there. I never want to leave now. It sets a nice warm welcoming atmosphere. Mr. President and Mrs. Obama were so nice. They stood in a four hour click line, doing pictures with all of us.

And afterwards, some of the good people that were helping to wait on the guests there in the White House, they said to me, I could see them pointing and nodding and looking, and one of the gentlemen, obviously of Latino descent, says to me, You're O'Malley, right? And I said, I am. And he says, I told you, he's ours.

And the crowd was starting to die down and you could tell that they probably aren't supposed to do this, but he leans in and says, Take a picture? I said, Sure.

So I stand there and the guy comes over and I said, Where are you from originally? And he says, From Argentina. I said, Great. Thank you. Click, picture. Here comes another person, Can I get one, too? What is your name? My name's Maria. And where are you from? From Venezuela. Okay, I do a picture. Then another one came. Where are you from? And I forget, but all four of them were naturalized United States citizens from four different countries.

So we are all part of one tribe. And that tribe is known as the United States of America, where e pluribus unum still means something. And as I look out and see into the eyes of my Native American neighbors, I know that all of us, with the exception of our Native American neighbors, came from some place else before we arrived here.

I saw Paul Hawken give a talk the other night on the internet. He's written a number of books on mostly environmental things and sustainability. But he had a wonderful phrase that I just wanted to share with you. He said that, "Our work is to create a better and more complete 'we.'" A better and more complete we.

That's what you've done as your work here. And I'm looking forward to learning more about the Maryland Civic Health Index. I understand we scored pretty high. And I think that is an exciting project, it measures how civically engaged Marylanders are across the State. You know, the Greeks had a word, their word for "idiot" was it meant a person not engaged in the civic life of their state.

So we believe—I think all of us, or you wouldn't be here—that our fullest exercise of our own individual freedom happens in the context of community. And it happens in the context of working with others to become a more complete we.

So I thank you for your commitment to shaping that better future. Our State has a lot going for us, we've been able to protect investments that have had us named the best public schools in America two years in a row. I mentioned the rate of job creation, which is actually twice the national rate of job creation. We're one of only eight states that has a Triple A bond rating. I mentioned the tuition freeze.

We've done a lot of things right to invest in this innovation economy. An innovation economy that is not only fueled by the investments we make in the brain power of our people, but it's also fueled by another important ingredient and you'll see it if you walk through the halls of Medimmune or NIH or Johns Hopkins or any of the other places where people are working on the science, the cures, the discoveries, the healings ... the things that create jobs and make us a moral leader of this world.

It's not only the brain power of our people, but it's also the diversity of our people. It comes together in the original land of the free and the home of the brave to inform and create different perspectives that allow us to address those big challenges that we face as a people.

Now, no doubt in this upcoming legislative session we're all going to be tested once again. In a year that's actually probably going to feel a lot tougher and a lot more painful than the prior three years, in terms of the budget.

Why is that? Well, because for the last two years President Obama and the Democratic Congress were there to help us bridge to a period of recovery. And now those recovery dollars have wound down.

So we're going to have a couple of tough years ahead of us, but we're going to make it through. And we're going to make it through because of all of you.

So none of us has the ability by ourselves to write this next chapter in American history. But each of us is needed. No community has it, in and of themselves, to write the next chapter in Maryland's history or America's history.

But together, as a more complete we, we can. In effect, we're all even. Every community is important and every person is important. And we are all in this together. And we need to write that history as if the future is watching and the future depends on us, because it does. So let's get started.

And also, I want to thank Izzy Patoka and his entire staff for the commitment and for the energy that they pour into the important work that I know each of you does in each of the commissions it's engaged in.

And it's now my honor to be able to introduce the Chair of the Governor's Commission on Middle Eastern American Affairs, Anwer Hasan.



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Maryland Forward Transition Forum on Jobs

December 20th, 2010

NIST, Gaithersburg, Maryland

As Delivered

Thank you very, very much. And thank you, Lt Governor Brown. Thank you to our friends from Baltimore – you probably woke up at 3:00 a.m. to get here.

I know some people came here from Western Maryland, you probably left at around midnight last night in order to be here on time.

We're also joined by one of the, I think, most effective County Executives in the United States of America and that is Ike Leggett.

County Executive, I feel like you should say a word or two. Come on up here.

(County Executive Leggett delivers remarks, then Governor O'Malley continues.)

County Executive, thank you. Let me thank Dr. Gallagher for all of the great work that he does here at NIST and everyone who does the important work here. You are a tremendous innovation asset for our State and for the economy of the future and we know – and for any of you who have not been here or – rather, let me say it this way, how many of you is this your very first visit to NIST, raise your hand?

The first time a Governor of Maryland ever visited NIST was nine months ago, so don't feel badly. But it does underscore the need that we have to align our assets, to realize where those innovation assets are and to act on them in a strategic way. So that's what I hope we might be talking about today. And that's why we asked to hold this here.

I want to thank the Lt. Governor for his great work from the first days of this administration. He wanted to work on economic development. No one told him there would be a recession during his first four years. Many of the things that he worked on have, nonetheless, been able to excel at and move forward, including BRAC.

Let me explain a little bit more about what we're doing today. On the way down the hall, Dr. Gallagher was asking to what degree we attributed the results of the last election to the fact that Maryland's economy is faring better than others. And I said,

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Well, I think it has a tremendous amount to do with it. And the reason our economy is faring better than most, is because of all of you. You do the most critically important work, putting the public to work, it's the work of making sure that people are gainfully employed, that we're making things, and we're building a better country. And they are putting not only food on the table, but hope and belief in the hearts and minds of the next generation of Americans that we're raising.

So thank you for what you've done. I know these have been three, four miserable, tough years from an economic standpoint and making the bottom line. And we are all in this together. And I can assure you that we still have a lot of work ahead of us. The good Lord never gives a shortage of work to do.

Shortly after the election, we sat down and started having our first budget meetings. You talk about cold water. We have a lot of cuts and a lot of difficult things to do. But there's not another state in America that has greater promise to come out the other end of this recession and to do so in a stronger way, because of the work that you do.

We are going to be – you may have noticed how very, very comfortable these chairs are? Don't get used to it.

We're going to quickly break into four sort of break-out sessions here today as we focus our attention. And let me introduce each of the members who will be facilitating those break-out sessions.

Facilitating the session on science and technology will be Tom Watkins. Tom is sitting right here in the front row. Tom is not only the head of the Life Sciences Commission for the advisory board for the State of Maryland, in his day job he runs a little company called Human Genome Science not far from here.

And chairing our Traditional Industries break-out session – and traditional industries are also part of the new economy, if only we had the courage and the guts to innovate and realize where those – that cutting edge of new manufacturing is in our country. Facilitating that one will be a gentleman who hails all the way from Baltimore, Maryland, and that is Don Fry.

And we'll be talking in that break-out session not only about manufacturing, but also about agriculture, which remains a huge industry in our State and also construction and housing, and Don will be facilitating that one.

Simultaneously – and all of these will be going on at the same time – will be the Small Business break-out session. Almost two-thirds of people who are employed in our State are employed by so-called small businesses. And that will be headed by Neil Muldrew, who also hails from Baltimore. Where is Neil? Neil is here, and Neil is also the chairman of our Small Business Commission. We were the first administration, I think, in Maryland history to create a Small Business Commission.

The fourth one will be Quality of Life, and this individual probably gets the award for coming the furthest, and that is Karen Myers. Where is Karen? Karen is in the front row here. Karen runs Wisp. How is the snow at Wisp, Karen? Good, good snow. The Lt. Governor arranged for that snow.

Karen's break-out session will be talking about tourism, parks, and sports, so bring

your questions and themes for the day.

Forward to the New Economy

This is a time of transition. It is a time of transition in our economy, a time of transition in our country and in our world. And it also happens to be a time of transition for two individuals, O'Malley and Brown, who hold a public trust in that one corporation that each of us in this room has a share in, and that is the State of Maryland, your State government.

And rather than focusing – as many of you, as I look at the eyes in this room, were involved in our transition four years ago, where we looked on a sort of department by department basis – we would like to do a transition this year, leading off with this jobs session, that is focused not so much on the individual departments, which is not to say each of them won't have to become smaller, more efficient, more effective, but we wanted to focus on the big goals that are enterprise-wide goals. And figure out better ways at this mid-point in the locker room here that we can take a deep breath, come out for the second half of this eight-year period of time. So that we can advance the ball as far as we possibly can for the benefit of that better future that all of us prefer in our State.

So the big overarching questions, as we come together around this common corporation that each of us has a stake in, are these: What are the top three things the State should do in order to support innovation and entrepreneurship, to expand workforce skills and education, to improve Maryland's business environment, to expand access to capital, to improve Maryland's infrastructure?

And what are the factors that drive job growth in general? What actions can the State take specifically to drive job growth within those break-out sessions that each of you will be taking part in?

What State programs are most valuable to your business and which ones aren't worth much at all to you and maybe should be eliminated? What State programs are not helpful at all, what need to be restructured?

What partnership opportunities for resource leveraging and partnerships are currently being missed with business, government and/or academia?

A wonderful example of that is the awareness of the mission here at NIST, with the awareness of the mission at NSA, two government missions, but also Bel Leong-Hong chaired up our cyber security white paper that realized cyber security experts could pull all of these things together with all of the private contractors and private talent that goes to fuel those missions.

And Senator Mikulski has been running with that piece. In Congress we're all hoping – many of us are hoping for the omnibus, because that means that that cyber center comes into being sooner rather than later.

So that's an example of realizing what we have, and putting the pieces together so that we can make a stronger whole.

Tough Choices that Move Maryland Forward

Let me wrap up my part here with a couple other thoughts here for you. First I want to thank you for giving your time today. This is a big investment of your time. And I know that there are other things you could be doing as this calendar year comes to a close and the holidays are upon us.

I don't believe that there's anything more important, though, that we can do together than to take a pause, take a deep breath, take some time to realize what we have in one another and the better future that we can make for all of our people, especially when it comes to that imperative of job creation. And where we want to go, what choices we must make together, in order to get there.

So today we do want to hear from you, we want to hear your ideas, we want your input on the most pressing issue that we face. And that is how to make the turn, if you will, into this new economy. And to do so successfully, so that we're able to expand opportunity for all.

And, most importantly, expand opportunities for the next generation.

And every job is important. Whether it's in construction, whether it's in tourism, whether it's in hospitality services or what have you. But we're all here today, I think, because we understand that in this changing, new economy, that we are literally in a fight. We are in a competition or a fight for our children's future. And in this competition or fight, there will be some states that win and there will be some states that lose.

And for Maryland to win, we have to move forward by creating and saving jobs through innovation, while at the same time improving public safety and security, improving education, and improving our quality of life. And to make this progress, we have to make the right choices and most of those choices will not be easy. And nothing worth doing is easy.

There will be choices, though, that spur innovation, choices that promote educational achievement, because the more a person learns, the more a person earns. And the smarter states will be the successful states in this changing economy.

Choices that promote and advance the creative capacity of our people, which is our greatest asset. Choices that help us create and save jobs, position our State to make this new economy ours, without leaving any family behind.

So, these choices also, it must be said, have to be made against the backdrop of some very, very tough economic times and, therefore, some tough State budgetary constraints. All of us are going to be asked to sacrifice even further. And the best we'll be able to do in your State budget for many, many worthy priorities will be to level fund them. That will be the best we're able to do.

In most cases, we're actually going to have to continue to make painful cuts and fight as best we can to minimize the extent of those cuts.

None of these difficulties or sacrifices can be allowed to deter us or distract us from the urgent task at hand, which is to harness innovation so that we can create and save jobs and make this new economy ours.

Let me give you a few encouraging factoids. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, as you look at Maryland's strong competitive advantages compared to the other states – and we're going to talk about the need to improve those competitive strengths in relation to the rest of the world.

But compared to other states, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce has ranked Maryland one of the top two best states in America for innovation and entrepreneurship.

Education Week magazine has named Maryland's public school systems – all 24 of them looked at as a whole – among the 50 states as the best public schools in America two years in a row.

And the Kauffman index – the new economy index that looks at those states that are best positioned to make this new economy theirs and to be successful in this new economy – ranks Maryland in the top three among those states best positioned to make this new economy ours.

So let me fire through this short – I emphasize short – Powerpoint and then – who comes up after me, David Costello? Let me (inaudible) if you would stand up, please. David Costello has a confederated office in our State government, which is called the Delivery Unit.

So we created the Delivery Unit for this reason. What we found in State government was that very often there needs to have three or four or five different departments all work together to accomplish an end. And what the Legislature found in their frustration, was that none of those departments by themselves engaged in those acts of communication and coordination. Nonconsensual acts by nonconsenting adults.

And so, in order to drive that, the Legislature from time to time would create offices. What the Legislature would do if they found an instance, for example, like Smart Growth, where housing, transportation, economic development, agriculture and natural resources failed to work together effectively, we would create an Office of Smart Growth.

If we had areas like Department of Human Resources, Juvenile Services, you name the others, that weren't working together in order to advance the cause and the well-being of children, youth and families, we would create an office of Children, Youth and Families. You get the point.

So we put all of those together. David heads that office and it's called the Delivery Unit, the Governor's Delivery Unit. And it is David's job, along with his confederates, to report directly to me as we advance over 15 strategic roles that we're going to go through.

We came out with these goals after much consideration and much talk and they are going to kind of drive the organization forward like a flock of Canada Geese – with the lead one giving a little greater lift to the others. They all go together, they all matter. But they don't happen unless people coordinate, cooperate, and work in partnerships.

So David's team does things like measuring performance, giving us wedge analyses, and figuring out strategies for how we'll accomplish real tough, difficult

things like a renewable energy portfolio of 20 percent by 2022. That's the first time I've ever said renewable energy portfolio and got applause.

But anyway, here we go.

Slideshow Presentation: Moving Maryland Forward, Making the New Economy Ours

When Anthony and I were running four years ago, prior to the recession, we talked a lot about the imperative to make our government work, how do we do that. You do it the way humanity and human beings in human history always have, you have to set goals.

So we set goals. We measure progress through StateStat and we have to be fiscally responsible, no progress without fiscal responsibility. And we change course when necessary, which is why we get together and talk as we are doing here today.

If you want to see more about these things, feel free to check out StateStat, BayStat or any of the other "stats" that are on the State website. I'm not going to talk too much in this slide presentation about the how-tos, as much as I am about the where-to.

Over the last four years we've had our work cut out for us as all of you have as well. \$5.6 billion in cuts. We had to do unpopular things like raising the sales tax by a penny, but we have a Triple A bond rating, we're one of only eight states that does. And Standard and Poor's writes, "The stable outlook reflects our view of Maryland's economic strength and historically strong financial and debt management policies,... the state has proactively responded to the recent budget structural imbalance," and we're going to need to keep being proactive in our response to that, even as we move forward.

In times of adversity, the thing I love best about the people of our State is that we don't make excuses, we make progress. And the foundation of all progress is public safety. And we've driven violent crime down to its lowest levels that we've seen since 1975, which was the first time, by the way, that the FBI had states and cities start reporting crime in a uniform way.

We're the only state in America to go four years in a row without a penny's increase in college tuition. While other states are dumping people off of healthcare rolls, you and I together have extended healthcare coverage to 225,000 of our neighbors, and half of them are kids.

And the waters of the Chesapeake Bay are cleaner now than they have been at any time in the last six years and the blue crab population is actually rebounding because of tough decisions that we're making together.

On public education, I mentioned the number one public schools. We've had record high MSA scores for elementary and math middle school students. Our achievement gaps are actually closing and not widening in our State. And, get this, over the last four years we have attained a 65 percent increase in the number of kids in our public schools taking AP exams in science, technology, engineering and math disciplines, which is very important for this new economy.

On the jobs front, this year we have created – you have created – 36,100 new jobs in Maryland this year, making our rate of job creation twice that of the rest of the country.

For those of you looking at the man in the shadows back there – Dr. Evil. I think we have to acknowledge that there is a lot of apprehension and a lot of fear out there and most of it is based in that sense that we have as a people that somehow because of all of the pressures and these new things that we confront, that we might be the last generation of Americans to enjoy a better quality of life than we're able to pass on to our grandchildren.

Stated another way, if I ask you how many of you believe you enjoy a better quality of life than your parents and grandparents, almost every hand, right?

When you ask the second question, how many of you believe just as firmly that your children and grandchildren will enjoy a better quality of life, not so many hands go up. And that's the great fear that we have to overcome. And it is not an entirely irrational fear. There are big forces at work and most of them are global forces that we need to acknowledge, put out there on the table, figure out a way to overcome like we have before at other times in American history and we're still up to it now.

But most of these big scary globals – or big “scaries” begin with the word global – global terror, global pandemic, global trade, global warming, global migration and population growth. We're the first generation of our species ever to see our population double in our own lifetime. That's never happened. Global recession, global poverty.

And what is very alarming, especially to leaders of organizations like NIST or others that depend so much on that knowledge and creative asset – global competition. The United States now ranks – and most of these rankings have been effected in a disturbing and downward way most dramatically in just the last ten year – the United States now ranks 20th in high school completion rates among industrialized nations and 16th in college completion rates.

In 2009 – get this – 51 percent of United States patents that were awarded in the United States were to non-U.S. companies. Fifty-one percent.

The total annual federal investment in research and mathematics, physical sciences and engineering, is now equal to the increase in U.S. healthcare costs every nine weeks.

And finally, American consumers spend significantly more on potato chips than we devote through our government to energy R&D, even in a time when 99 percent of scientists tell you that the climate is warming up because of our use of energy.

Tom Friedman, who is from Maryland, lives in Bethesda, writes that, “The long-term concern is that people intuitively understand that what we need most now is nation-building in America. They understand it by just looking around at our crumbling infrastructure, our sputtering job-creation engines and the latest international education test results that show our peers out-educating us, which means they will eventually out-compete us.”

So where are we going? Where are we going? We're going forward. And we do that

by going forward towards our goals. The one that we're here to talk about today is job creation. And I see the apparent cynics out there, you can't separate job creation from skills, I know. We're going to have a separate day on skills and education. I think all of us recognize they go together.

So the big goals that we have basically break down along the lines of that sort of education, job skills and jobs continuum; security; sustainability; and health.

To create, save or place residents in 250,000 jobs in Maryland by 2012. Dave is going to be talking to us later when we come back after the break-out sessions. On some of these things we're actually plowing new ground. For example, does NIST define what a green job is, Dr. Gallagher? No?

We haven't figured out some of the definitions of some these things because the challenges are so new, but there is a subset within this 250,000 of what is a green job. Putting on a solar panel is a green job. How about building a nuclear plant, is that a green job? You can imagine the day-long debate about that.

Another one of the 15 strategic most – by the way, these have numbers, but it's not in order of importance. They all go together, and progress in one requires progress in all.

To approve student achievements, school, career, college readiness in Maryland by 25 percent by 2015. To increase the number of Marylanders who receive skills training by 20 percent by 2012.

Security. Reduce violent crime in Maryland by 20 percent by 2012. We're actually on track, I think. To reduce violent crimes committed against women and children by 25 percent, to make Maryland a national leader in homeland security preparedness by 2012. As we've done in other transition days, we're going to be focused on each of these.

Sustainability. To accelerate Bay restoration efforts in order to reach the healthier Bay tipping point, where each of the rivers has become a little healthier every year, instead of a little sicker every year, and to do that by 2020. You've been reading a lot about that lately in the watershed improvement plans submitted to EPA.

To double transit ridership by the end of 2020, Don Fry's favorite. To reduce per capita electricity consumption in Maryland by 15 percent by 2015. To increase Maryland's renewable portfolio standard by 20 percent by 2022. And to reduce Maryland's statewide greenhouse gas emissions by 25 percent by 2020.

And finally, health. We've become the first state in the country to embrace the goal and actually work towards it, of reducing childhood hunger in our State – not reducing it, eradicating it, eliminating it, by 2015. We believe it actually can be done and the programs are there to do it, but what we need to do is make the connection.

To establish a best in the nation statewide health information exchange and electronic health records adoption by 2012. We're on track to do that – actually, I think we launched in Montgomery County back at the end of November with little fanfare, but it's an important step in terms of sharing MRIs and other things.

To reduce infant mortality in Maryland by 10 percent by 2012 and to expand

substance abuse services by 25 percent by 2012.

As you might have been thinking to yourself, each of these is connected to the other, and they really only make sense in context with the whole. And they all come down to one word, and the ability to make progress in this climate all comes down to something that we Americans have traditionally been actually pretty good at when we put our minds to it. And that is innovation. To be able to think anew, be able to think creatively, and this new economy is an Innovation Economy. And there are no other states that have a better set of innovation assets, a greater diversity of people and a greater talent pool than we have in order to make this new economy ours.

And as I say, this is not a new thing. Lincoln himself said, as our problems are new, so we must think anew. We just have to advance in skills, advance in security, advance in sustainability, advance in the health of our people, as well as our planet. As I mentioned before, progress in one of these requires progress in all of them.

In terms of innovation assets, we're number one in Federal R&D obligations per capita. We're number one in concentration of Ph.D scientists. We're number two in biotech, having moved up from fourth place, even in the middle of this recession, according to the Milken Institute. I mentioned the U.S. Chamber of Commerce ranking us in the top two in innovation. The Kaufman Foundation ranks us third in the new economy index.

The innovation assets are all over the map, quite literally, and that's only one map following the federal facilities in Maryland. We do have a Federal Facilities Advisory Board, which some of you are serving on. Community colleges, colleges and the businesses that are in this new economy here, you won't find a state that's better equipped than we are.

Maryland's new economy, our strongest job growth sectors are also the strong sectors in the nation's new economy. It's biotech, it's information technology, including cyber, it's clean energy and green tech – even as we struggle with definitions and measures of those things. It's healthcare, as the Lt. Governor mentioned. It's trade – the Port of Baltimore, where we're expanding our port – and it's aerospace, not only Greenbelt, but also the missions for the Hubble and also companies like Weatherbug right here in Gaithersburg. And Wallops on the Eastern Shore.

Which is why we launched a ten-year, \$1.3 billion investment in life sciences and Bio-2020. I mentioned Bel's efforts and the whole committee who are working on the cyber security. Got more hits around the world than anything else we've done in DBED these last four years was that white paper launch on cyber security.

And then the green jobs and industry ... moving forward toward our goal of creating, saving, and placing our fellow Marylanders in 100,000 clean-tech & green-tech jobs. Health IT Exchange was launched – that says October, actually, I think it got pushed to November, but it was launched. Mentioned Wallops, Weatherbug. Trade: 5,700 jobs in Baltimore, the World Trade Center Institute. I'd like to do one of these things, by the way, in Baltimore focused on that end of our two metro economies.

So, anyway, wrapping up, in this changing new economy where it's a fight for our

kids' future, it's a fight where some will win, some will lose. And in order to win, our State has to create and save jobs through innovation, while improving public safety, public education, and our quality of life.

And I'm very, very appreciative and I thank you all for coming here this morning. I'm going to kind of come around while each of you is in your break-out sessions and listen from the back. And then we're all going to get back together right after lunch and kind of have a report-out session, where we talk about these things.

There will be a report in addition to the report-out, we'll be taking notes, stenographers and those things, so that we can actually come up with transition documented plan. Taking stock of where we are and where we're going and also take stock of where we need to go in the future.

Thanks very, very much.



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